BAKEMONOGATARI
15
OH!GREAT
ORIGINAL STORY:
NISIOISIN
ORIGINAL CHARACTER
DESIGN: VOFAN

RAPI
BARA
cat

BAKEMONOGATARI

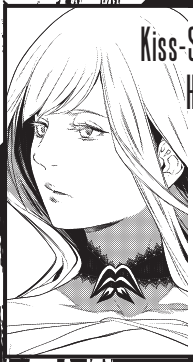
OH!GREAT

Original Story:
NISIOISIN

Original Character
Design: VOFAN

15

MAIN CHARACTERS

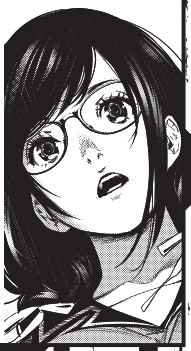


Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade

A vampire powerful enough to be called the "king of aberrations" who Koyomi saved from near-certain death. Recently, she engineered a fight with Koyomi both to save him and end herself.

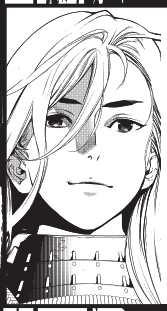
Koyomi Araragi

A boy who became Kiss-Shot's thrall after saving her. He decides to fight Kiss-Shot, his master, and ultimately wins, but now...



Tsubasa Hanekawa

Koyomi's friend who goes to the same school as him, and an honor student that few honors could sufficiently describe. She saw through Kiss-Shot's plan.



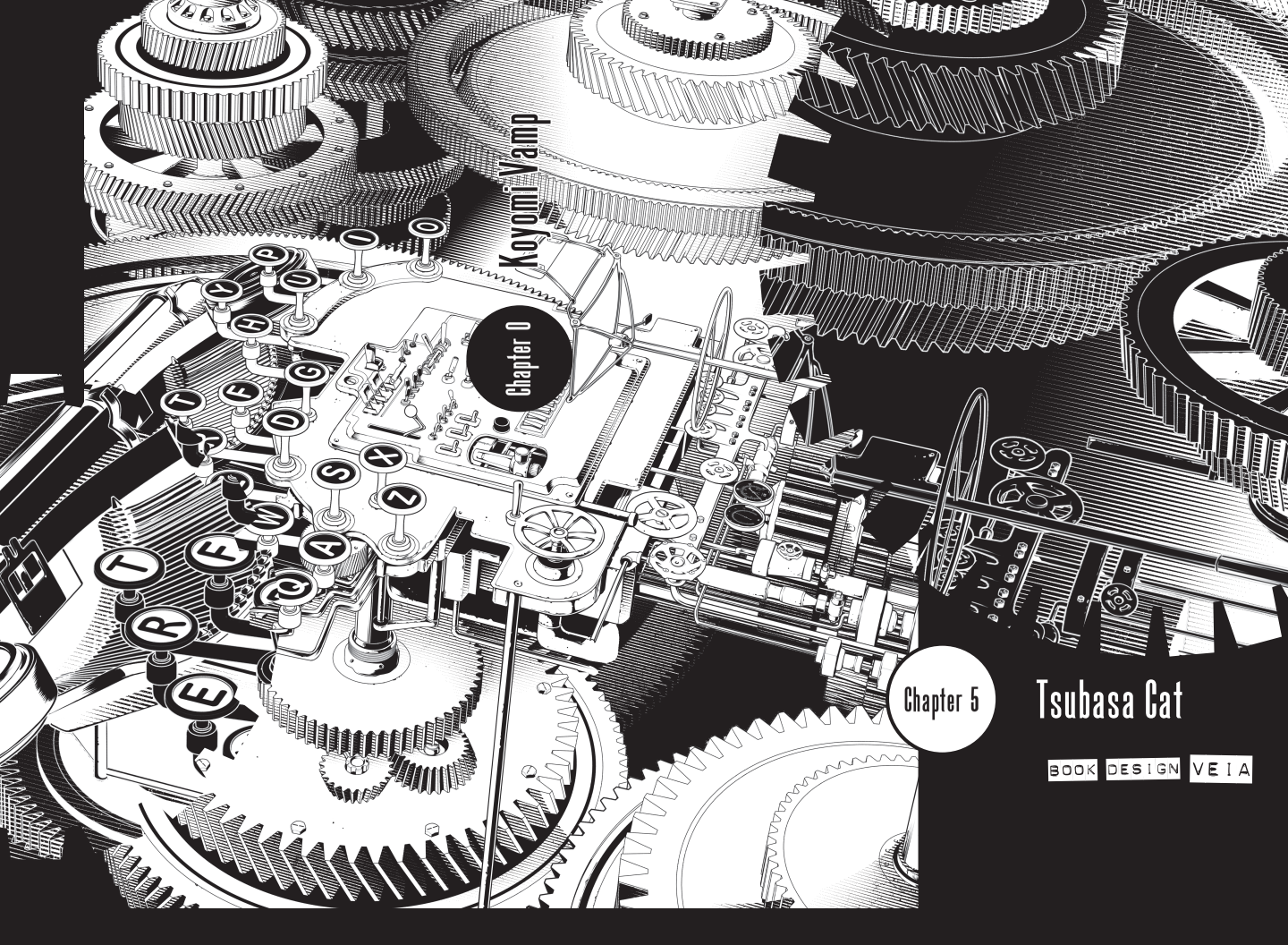
Seishiro Shishirui

Kiss-Shot's first thrall. Though they fought alongside each other at one point, their relationship broke down and he took his own life.

Mèmè Oshino

A self-described expert on aberrations who appeared in front of Koyomi one day. He provides help to Koyomi in order to maintain balance.

During spring break, Koyomi Araragi saved the critically injured vampire Kiss-Shot Acerola-Orion Heart-Under-Blade and became her thrall. However, he finds himself fighting against his master and defeating her to stop the aberration she is. But upon doing so, he learns that Kiss-Shot had actually set up the situation so she could die and save Koyomi in the process. What will Koyomi do now that he has had a glimpse into the past and emotions of the king of aberrations...?


Chapter 0
Koyomi Vamp
Chapter 5
Tsubasa Cat
BOOK DESIGN VEIA

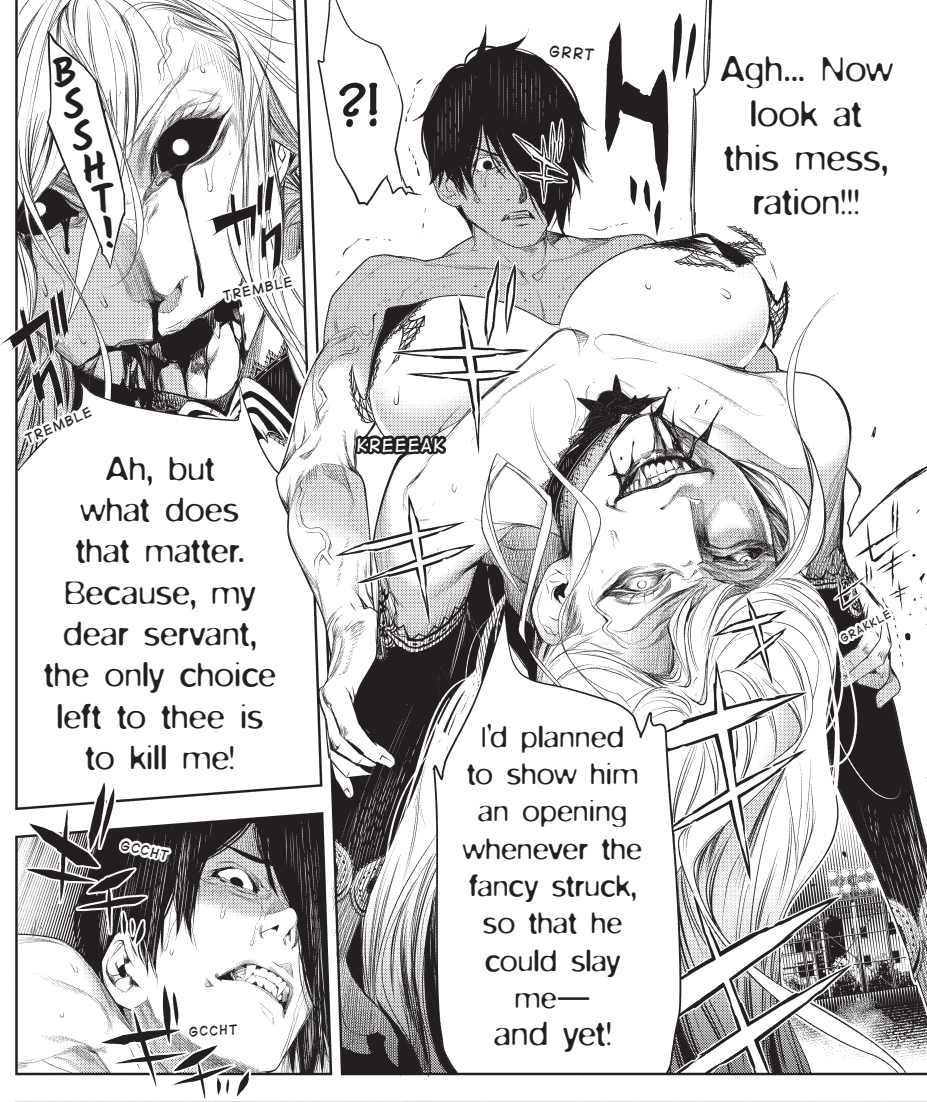
In that moment, I...
In that moment, I...
...by any grand notion.
I hadn't been moved...
That is what I had told myself.
I thought I was ready to die.
SKREE

But I...
...didn't want to have to see her crying face.
I couldn't bear seeing it—that was all.
It was the first time in my life...
...that anyone helped me.
As I sat there, sucking thy blood—
I began to wonder, what was I doing?
I decided I would die for thy sake.
And then —
I decided I would die for her sake.
And then —
SPLAP
ぱたた…

...It was ...
...all the same, wasn't it?!

I can't believe things turned out this way.
Kiss-Shot acting as a vampire. Eating Guillotine Cutter.
Eating 6,000 people to date.
And yet—
And yet...
as nothing more than food.
the inside.

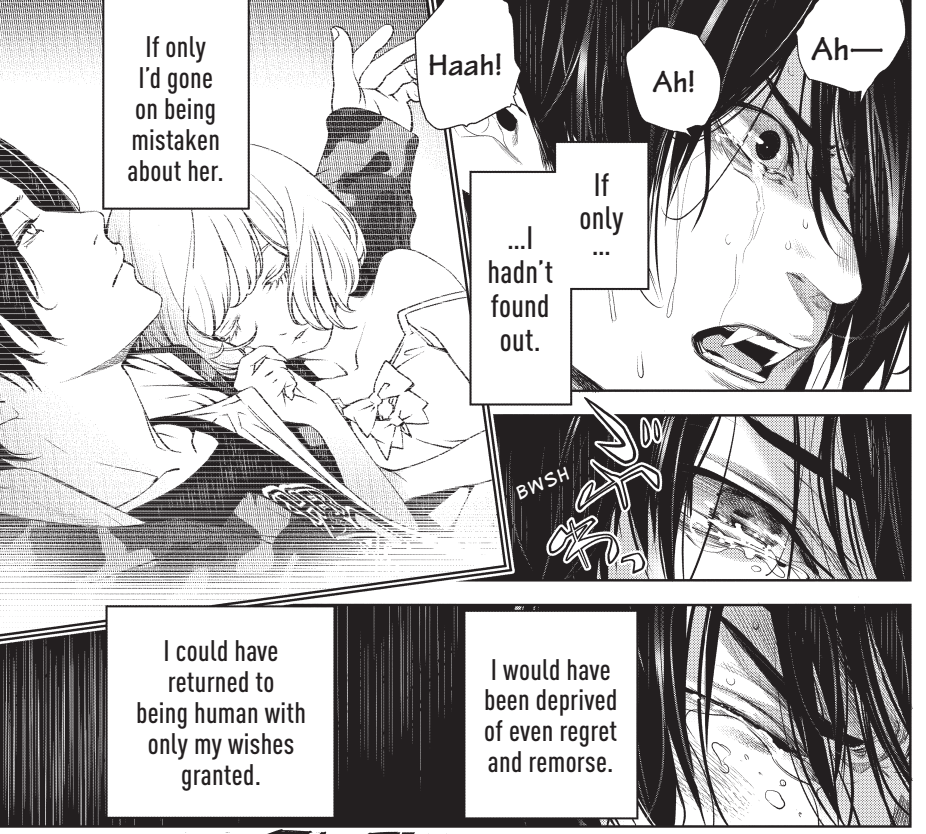
...What I'd done...
...and what you were trying to do.
SPLAP
What you'd done...
...and what I was trying to do.
It was all exactly the same, wasn't it?!

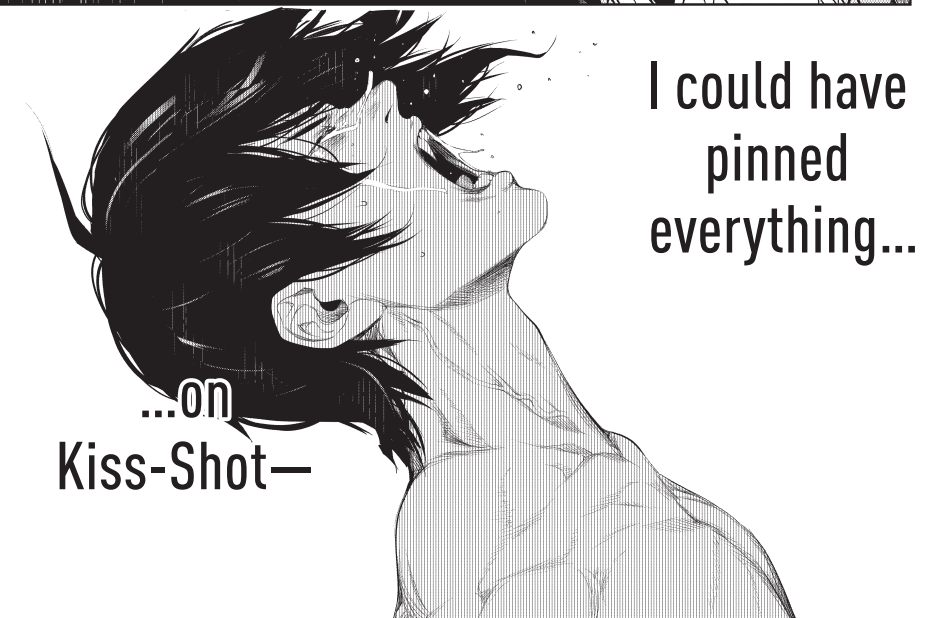

BSSHT!
TREMBLE
TREMBLE
?!
GRRT
Agh... Now look at this mess, ration!!!
KREEEAK
GRAKKLE
Ah, but what does that matter. Because, my dear servant, the only choice left to thee is to kill me!
GCCHT
GCCHT
I'd planned to show him an opening whenever the fancy struck, so that he could slay me— and yet!

I shall eat 1,000 people a day starting tomorrow.

SNAP
SNAP
SNAP
GLARE
This is no idle threat. If I poached thy ration to prove that this is no idle threat, would it move thee into action?
...NGH!
HANE ...!
Come on.
Snatch away the life you saved.
Is that not— the respon-sible thing to do?

Come on. Come on. Come on.
Come on. Come on. Come on.
Come on. Come on. Come on.
Come on. Come on. Come on.
Come on. Come on. Come on.
Come on—Kill me, servant!!!


If only I'd gone on being mistaken about her.
Haah!
Ah!
Ah—
If only ...
...I hadn't found out.
BWSH
I could have returned to being human with only my wishes granted.
I would have been deprived of even regret and remorse.

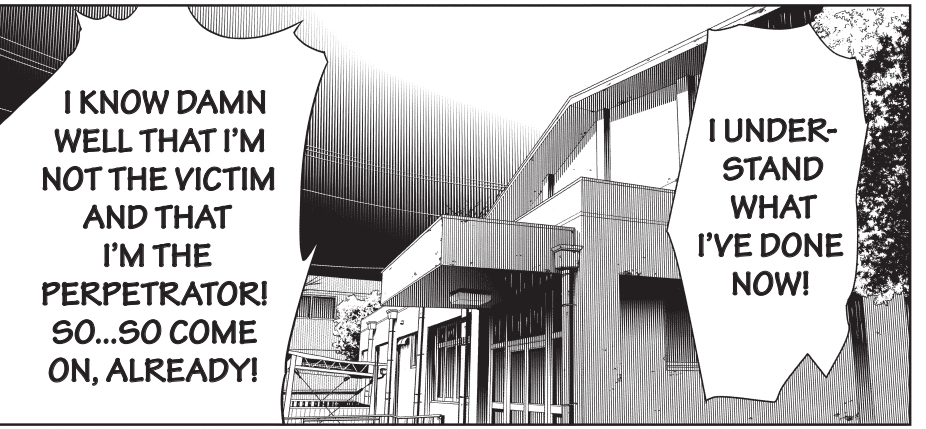

I could have pinned everything...
...on Kiss-Shot—

NO
OSHI

0
0
0
0
!

MÈMÈ !!
OSHINO !
OSHINO !!!
I KNOW YOU'RE OUT THERE WATCHING US!
STOP ACTING SO IMPORTANT AND SHOW YOURSELF!
I'VE GOT A JOB FOR YOU, YOU BASTARD !!!

NOW I UNDERSTAND— I UNDERSTAND IT ALL! I DON'T NEED ANY MORE EXPLANATIONS FROM YOU!



No no no!
I don't want to die!
Someone, someone!
Please!
I know you're pretending to be some graceful loser here...
...but that's not the truth—it's not what you're actually feeling, is it, Kiss-Shot.
Save me!
Save me!
Save me!
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
You said you didn't want to disappear.
You said "thank you." Don't you remember?
I don't want to die!
Someone help me

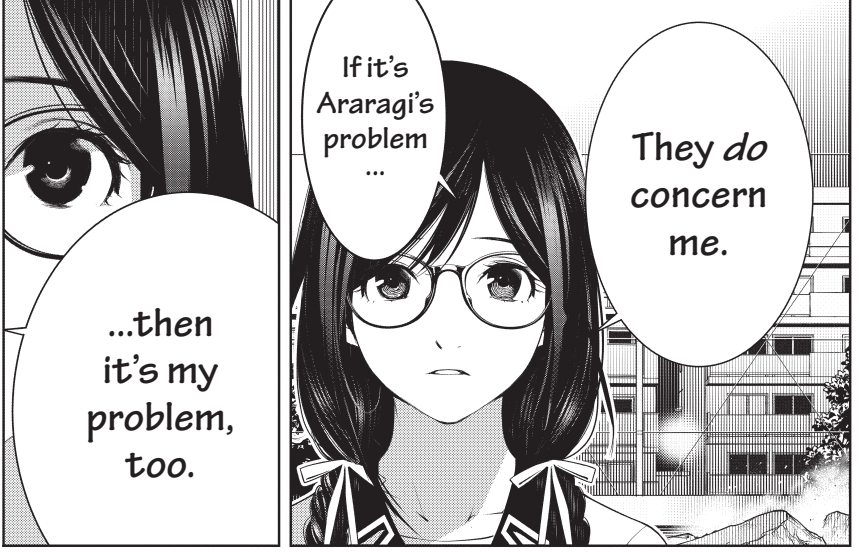
DO SOME-THING!
The two of us...
...laughed together, didn't we?
OSHI-NOOOO !!!!

You don't have to yell. I can hear you fine.
YAWN
ふわぁ。
Hey there, Araragi.
Imagine meeting you here—what are the chances?

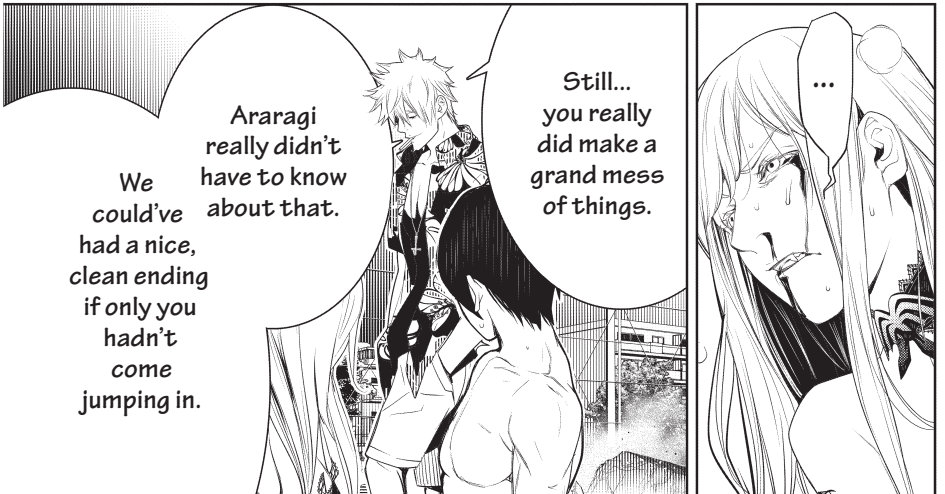
Ha haa!
So spirited, Araragi— something good happen to you?
O—!
Oshi...
It's not an issue of money.
...I'll pay.
I have a job for you. I want you to do something.
Some-thing?

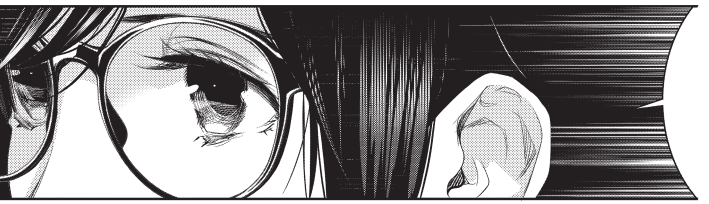
A personal one, what else?
Then what's the issue?
Don't get me involved here.
...
Hey there, Missy Class President.
This is our first time meeting—right?
...Yes.
It's nice to meet you. My name is Hanekawa.
BOUNCE

Huh ?!
I think I'd rather not meet her.
To be honest, I find her creepy.
After you said that ?!
If I'd left, I never would've had the chance to meet you!
Well, it was a good thing I decided to stick around this town.
Well...
IRK
Oh, stop. Why would I ever?
I was convinced that you hated me, Mister Oshino.
...
Take it from me— if Araragi said something weird to you, it's nothing but a baseless rumor. ♡
You really are amazing, though— aberrations don't even concern you.
Yet you've gotten this deeply involved in it all.
You really are spirited— something good happen to you lately?

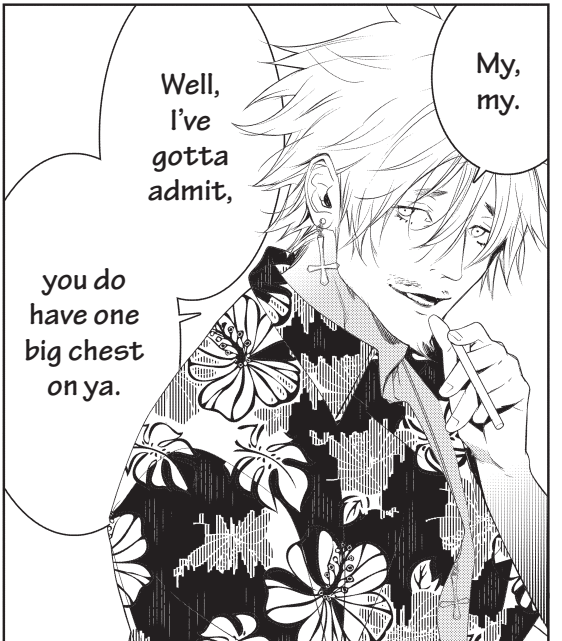

If it's Araragi's problem ...
They do concern me.
...then it's my problem, too.

Wow.
Ain't that friend-ship.
Keh heh.
Or maybe it's youth?


...
Still... you really did make a grand mess of things.
Araragi really didn't have to know about that.
We could've had a nice, clean ending if only you hadn't come jumping in.



...without knowing the truth.



OH, MY MISTAKE!
I MEANT TO SAY YOU'VE GOT ONE BIG HEART IN YA!
THAT'S WHAT I WANTED TO ADMIT!
HOW BIG YOUR HEART IS!
HA
HA
HA
HA
HA
はっはっはっはっはっ

Yeah...
THWAP
...right!
That's just sexual harass-ment.

語 *gatari*

物 *mono*

KOYOMIvamp

15

化 *bake*

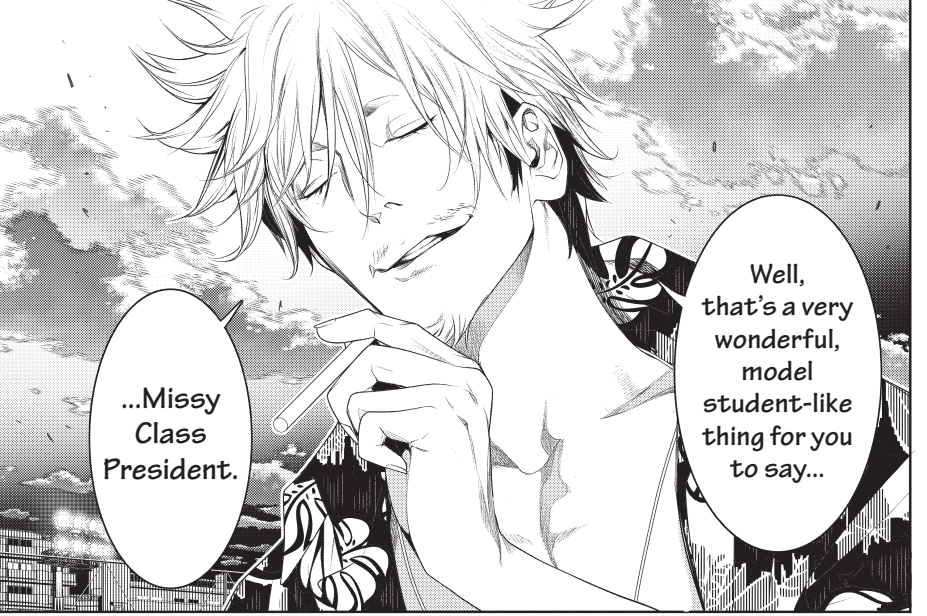
化 *bake*

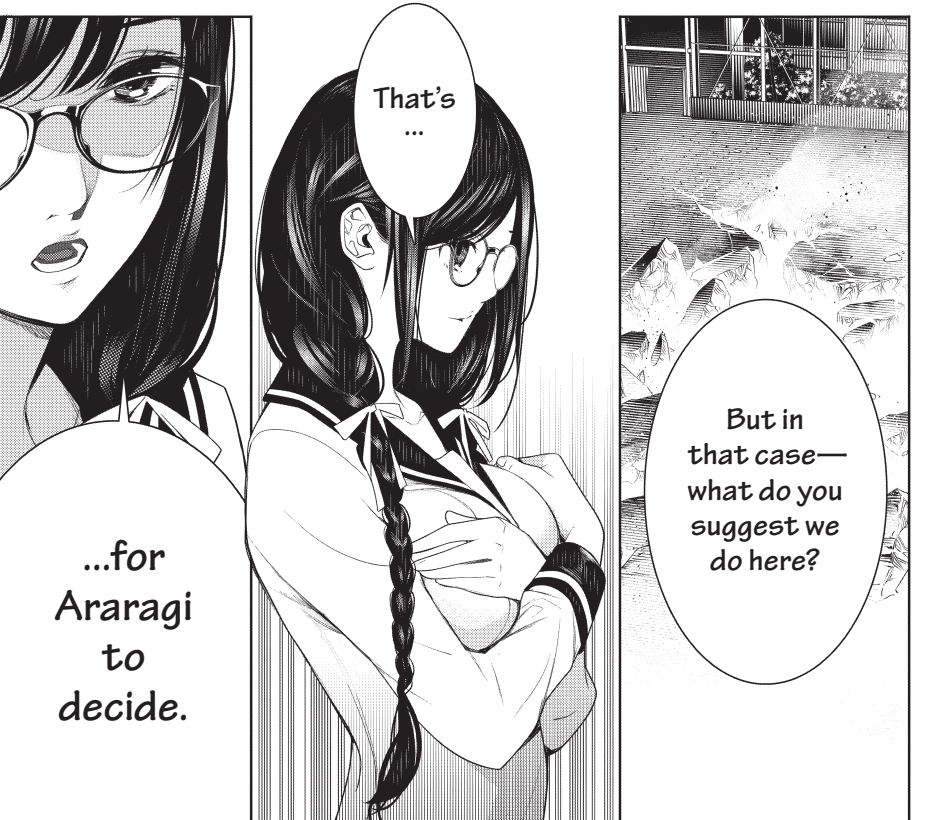
物 *mono*

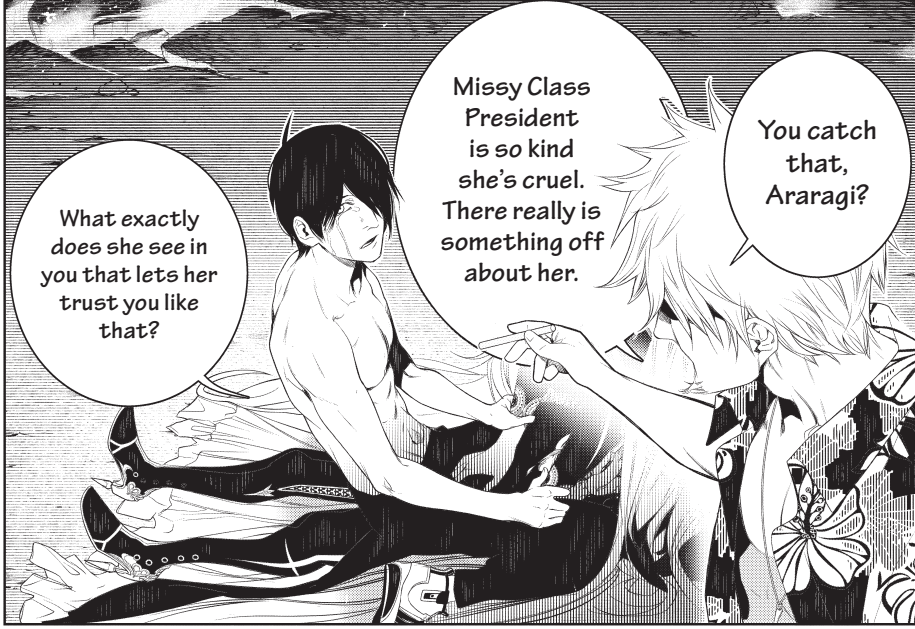
KOYOMIvamp

15

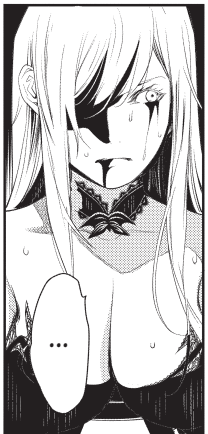
語 *gatari*


Well, that's a very wonderful, model student-like thing for you to say...
...Missy Class President.


But in that case— what do you suggest we do here?
That's ...
...for Araragi to decide.


You catch that, Araragi?
Missy Class President is so kind she's cruel. There really is something off about her.
What exactly does she see in you that lets her trust you like that?

So?
What'll you do?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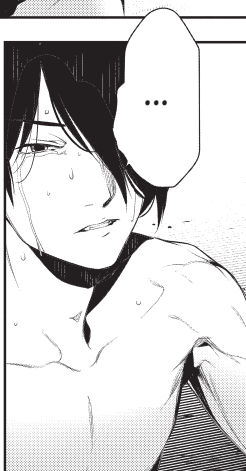
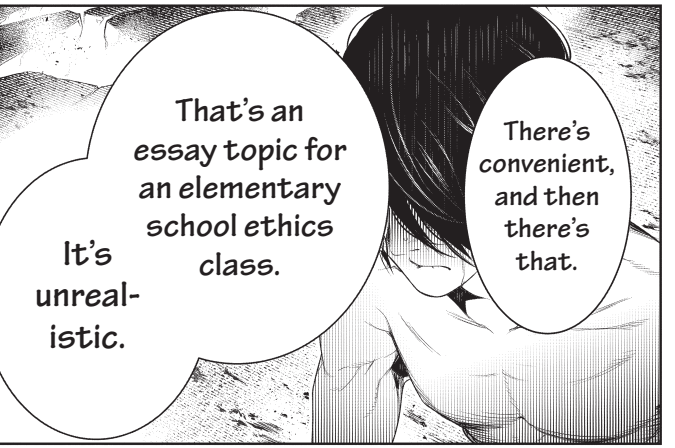

...

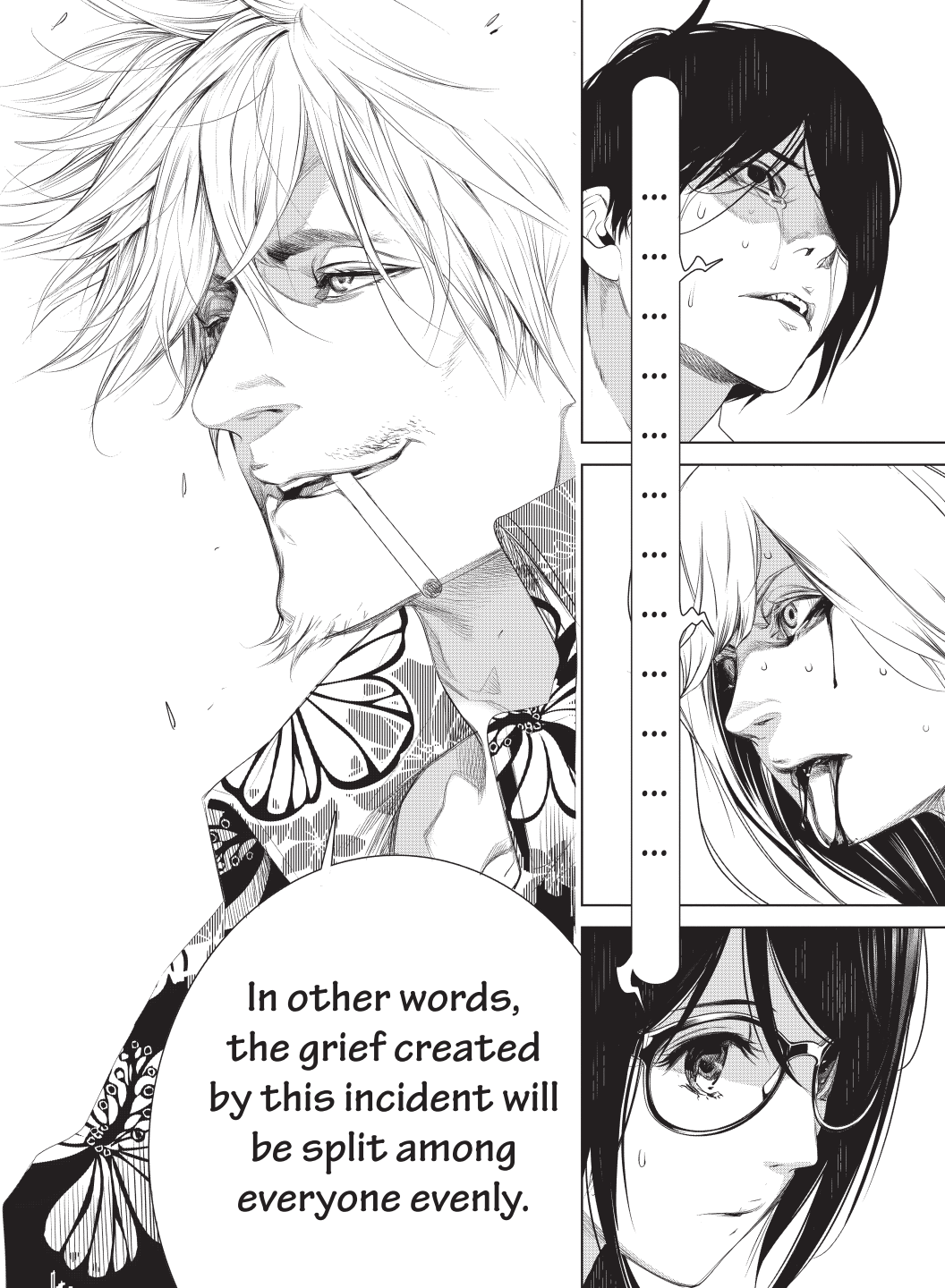
But just when I thought that ship had sailed, I found myself on it.
My original plan was just to watch the aftermath play out.
The fee can be... Yeah, that should do it.
This is a job for me—as a professional, correct?
KRAK
So, fine, I'll listen to your request.
You can owe it to me again.
The five million I called off.

So?
What is your heart's desire?
...
I want you to tell me how...
...to make everyone happy—
A method that will keep all of us... from being unhappy.



Are you stupid or something?

I *can* think of a way that will make *everyone* miserable.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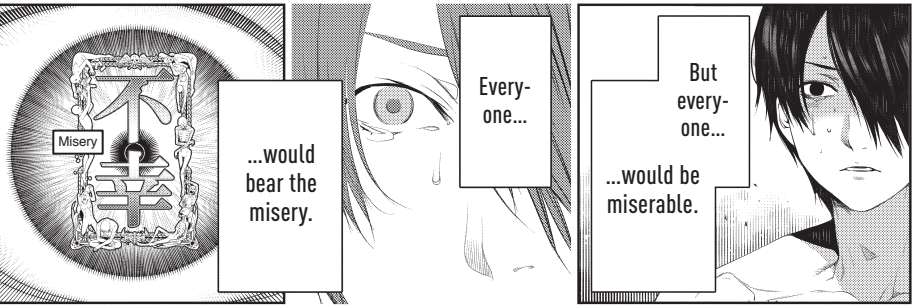
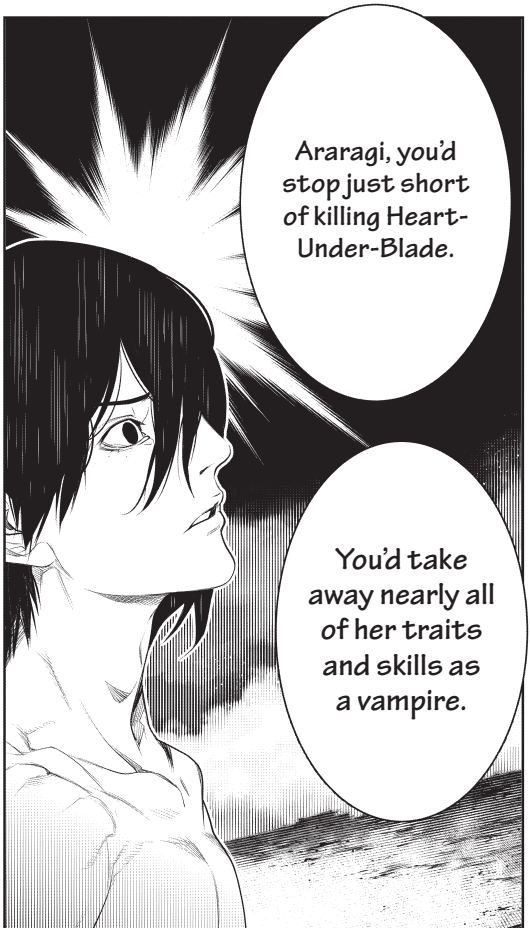
……
In other words, the grief created by this incident will be split among everyone evenly.

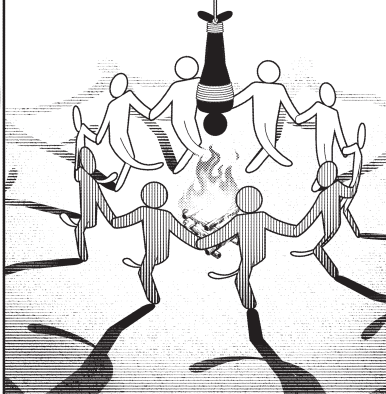
No one's wishes will come true.



No one person ...

... would have to take it all on.





Neither dead nor alive.

She'd be even closer to death than she was before.

And you, Araragi—that wouldn't allow you to turn back into a human, either.
But you'd be—extremely close to one.
You would be like a vampiric mockery of a human, Araragi.
X-ray
High Grade
Name: Koyomi Araragi
(First) (Last)
X-Rot:9.0
Y-Rot:-8.0
Z-Rot:-23.0
Image:7354238
Pix:0.18 Thk:0.18
WL:3734 WW:4975
Form I 103472-034
You'd have a few remaining vampiric traits and skills...
Form III 107531-007
Devil ☐Yes ☐No
Monster ☐Yes ☐No
Human ☐Yes ☐No
GOOD
15
condition: Green
You wouldn't be able to call yourself human, but you'd be infinitely far from being a vampire.
Dates
X-Rot:-17.0
Y-Rot:6.0
Z-Rot:-31.0
Image:4955210
Pix:2.77 Thk:1.29
WL:1896 WW:3320
Form II 104412-083
You'd of course be nothing like a half-vampire. Instead, you'd be a half-baked creature.
3D_012Bxxx
X-Rot:-0.0 Y-Rot:12.0 Z-Rot:0.0 Image:863419
Form V 108921-006
REGISTRATION
ADDRESS:
TELEPHONE:(H)
(C)
DATE OF BIRTH:
SS#:
DATE OF APPT.:
LAST X-RAYS:
LAST PROPHY:
REFERRED BY:
Form VII 115032-089

Fit-ting ?!

?!

HOW FITTING! ♡

...Heart-Under-Blade would starve to death from lack of nutrition.

So, Araragi, you're going to have to constantly give Heart-Under-Blade your own blood.

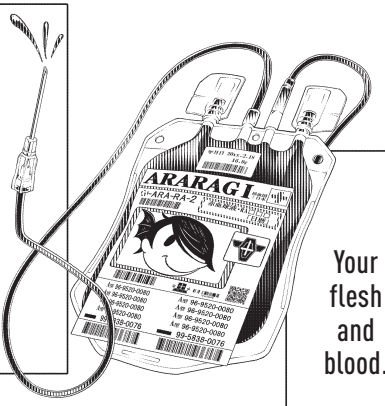
However, if we just left it at that...

no matter how hungry you got.

And of course, you wouldn't be able to eat humans, either,

You would need to devote the rest of your life to her,

and she would have to spend the rest of hers nestled up to you.



Your flesh and blood.

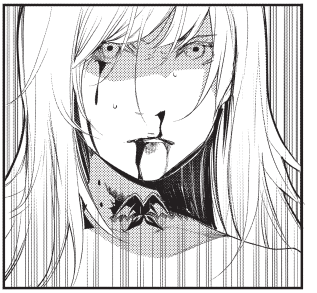
...would be the very thing that will have reduced her to her vulgar state.

The one source of nutrition that would keep Heart-Under-Blade alive...

HOW—
H-H-HOW DAREST THOU SPEW SUCH RIDICULOUS THOUGHTS, BOY!
THIS PLACE IS WHERE I SHALL DIE! THIS IS IT!
I WILL NOT LIVE IN DISGRACE!
THOU HAST NOT SPENT A TENTH OF MY TIME ALIVE! WHAT DOST THOU KNOW, BOY?! I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THY SELF-SERVING NONSENSE!
STAY OUT OF THIS! WAS THAT NOT OUR AGREEMENT?!
I HAVE NO WISH TO GO ON LIVING IN SUCH A FORM!
I just wanted to set things up in the best way possible.
I don't remember ever making an agreement with you.

You deciding to die was convenient for me, that's all.
And by me—
I mean mankind.

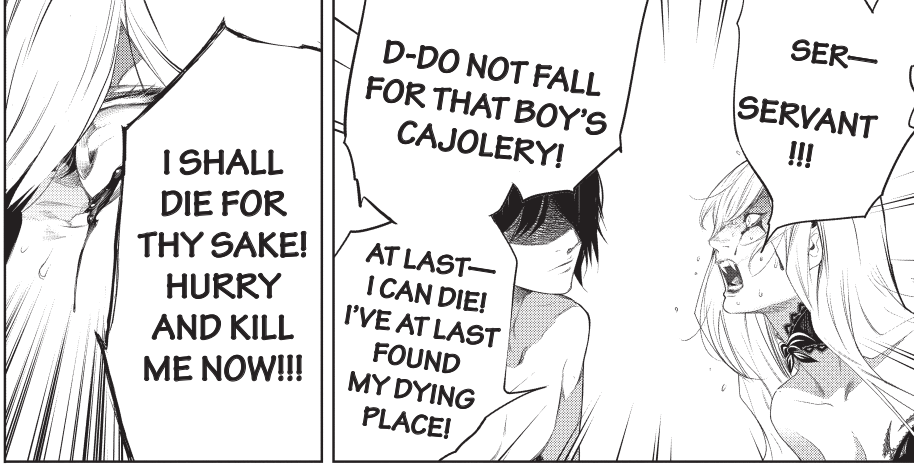
In that case —
what you're saying is...
...that for us humans ...



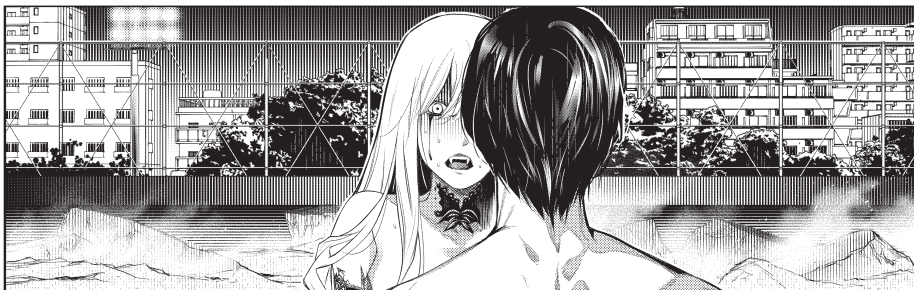
...
...
Mgh!

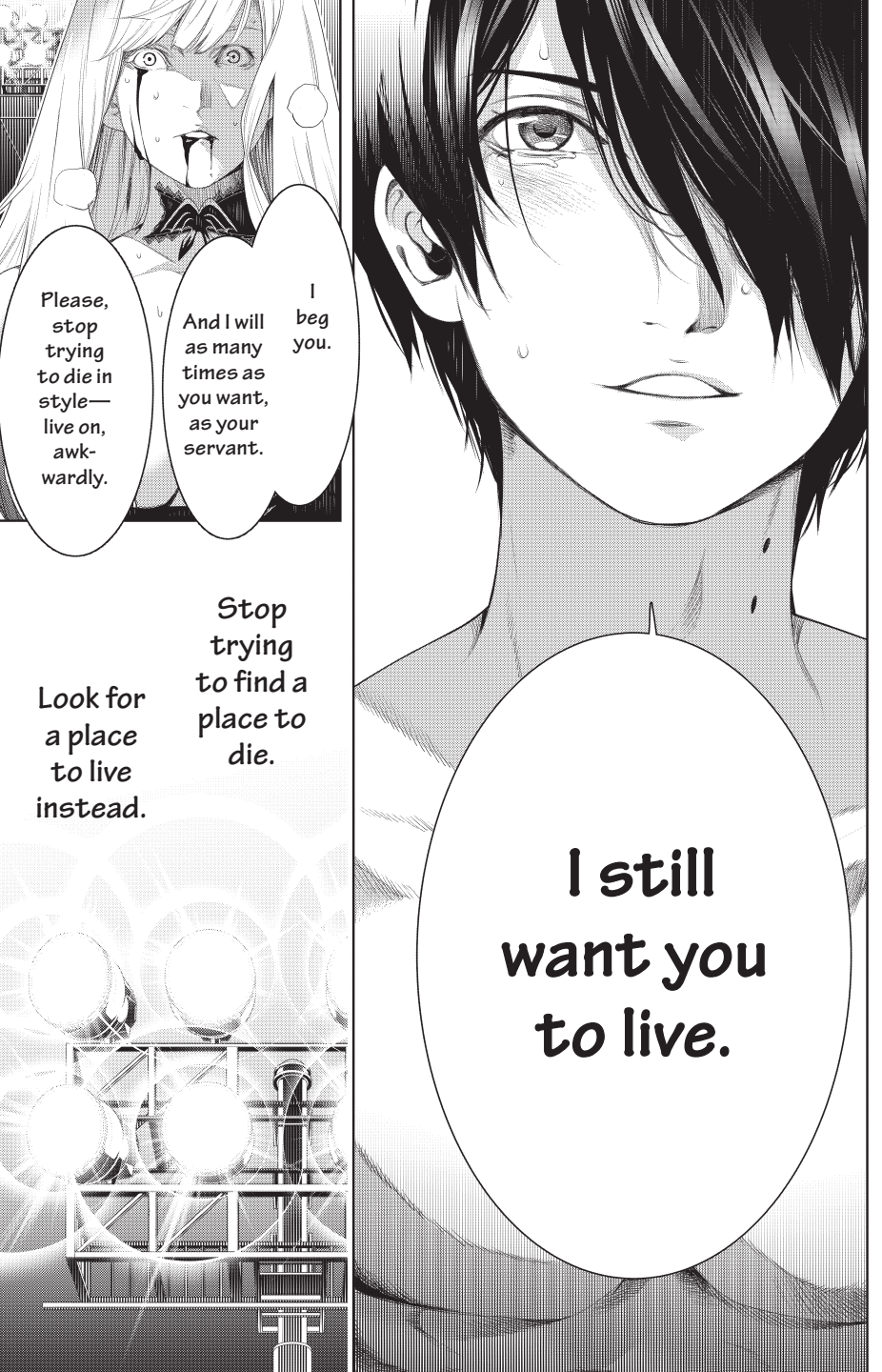
...any plans to wipe out the iron-blooded, hot-blooded, yet cold-blooded vampire—the king of aberrations and her thrall—
would have to be abandoned.
There would be the risk that this woman and Araragi,
who could wipe out the world in 22 days if they felt like it, could return to being vampires.
That risk would still remain.
And it would be very real.

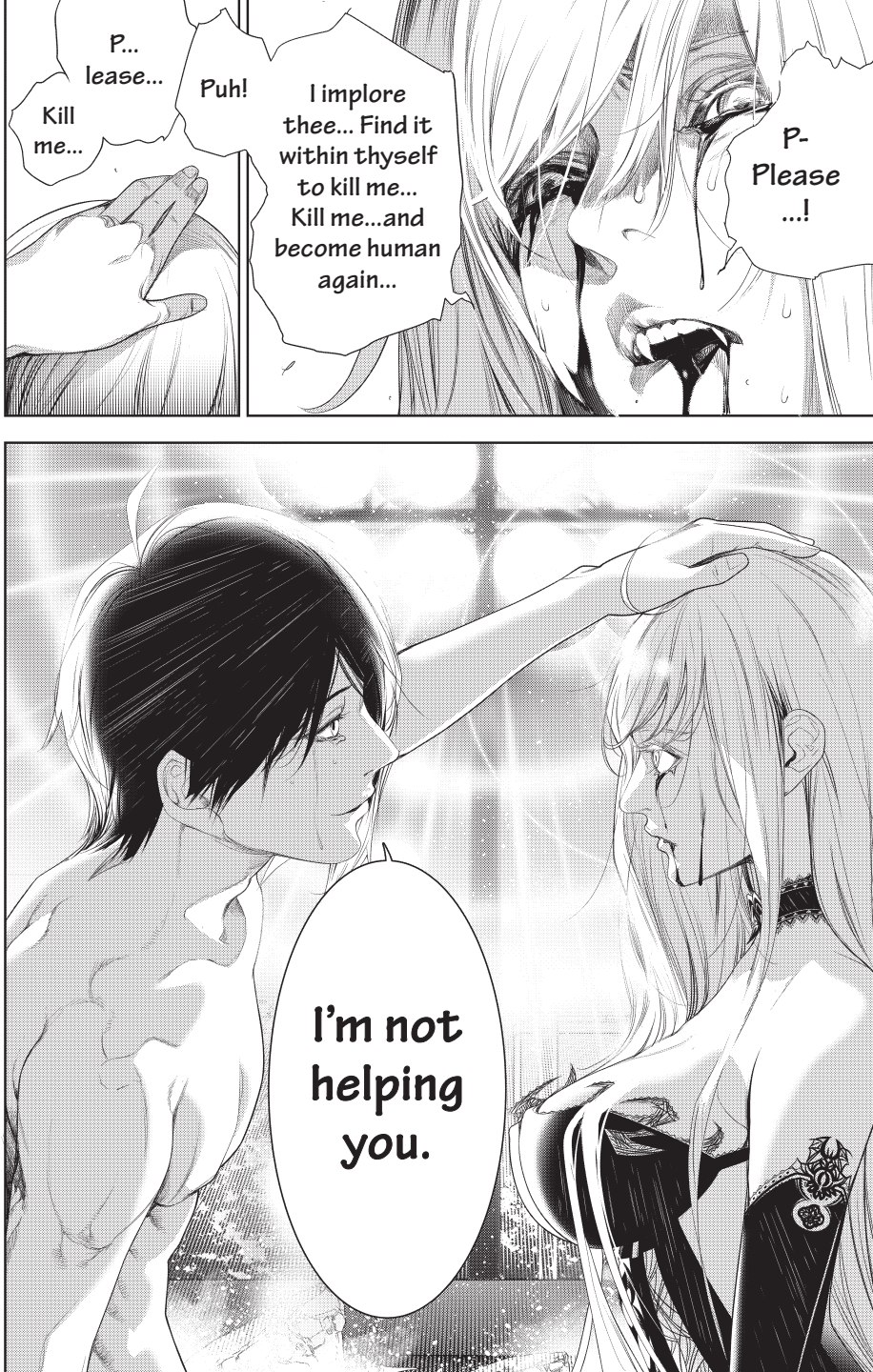
If we did that,
everyone would be miserable. No one's wishes would come true.
Kiss-Shot would be unable to die.
I wouldn't be turning back into a human.
Two vam-pires ...
...would be left alive.
RR—
RATION ...
AH!
AH!

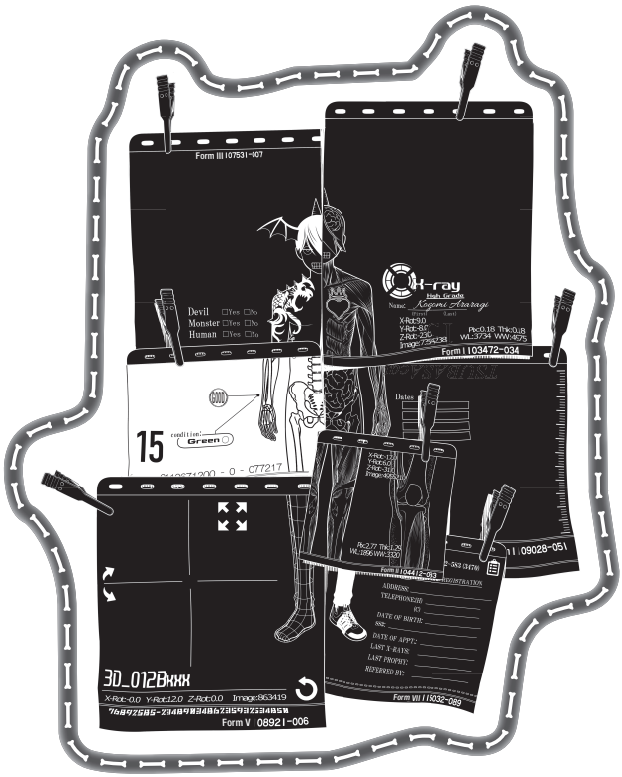

I SHALL DIE FOR THY SAKE! HURRY AND KILL ME NOW!!!
D-DO NOT FALL FOR THAT BOY'S CAJOLERY!
AT LAST— I CAN DIE! I'VE AT LAST FOUND MY DYING PLACE!
SER—
SERVANT !!!

I'm sorry, Kiss-Shot.

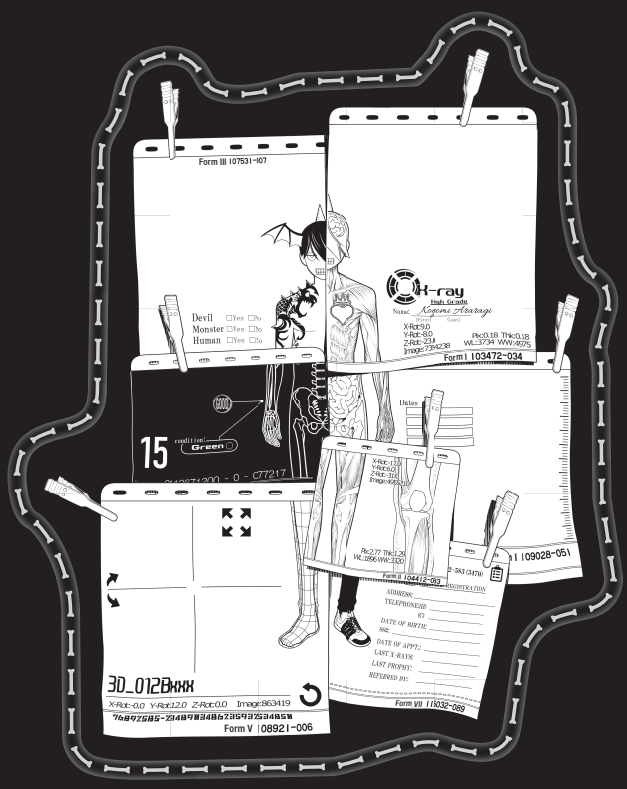



I beg you.
And I will as many times as you want, as your servant.
Please, stop trying to die in style—live on, awk-wardly.
Stop trying to find a place to die.
Look for a place to live instead.
I still want you to live.


P-
Please
...!
I implore thee... Find it within thyself to kill me... Kill me...and become human again...
Puh!
P...
lease...
Kill
me...
I'm not helping you.



BAKEMONOGATARI 15

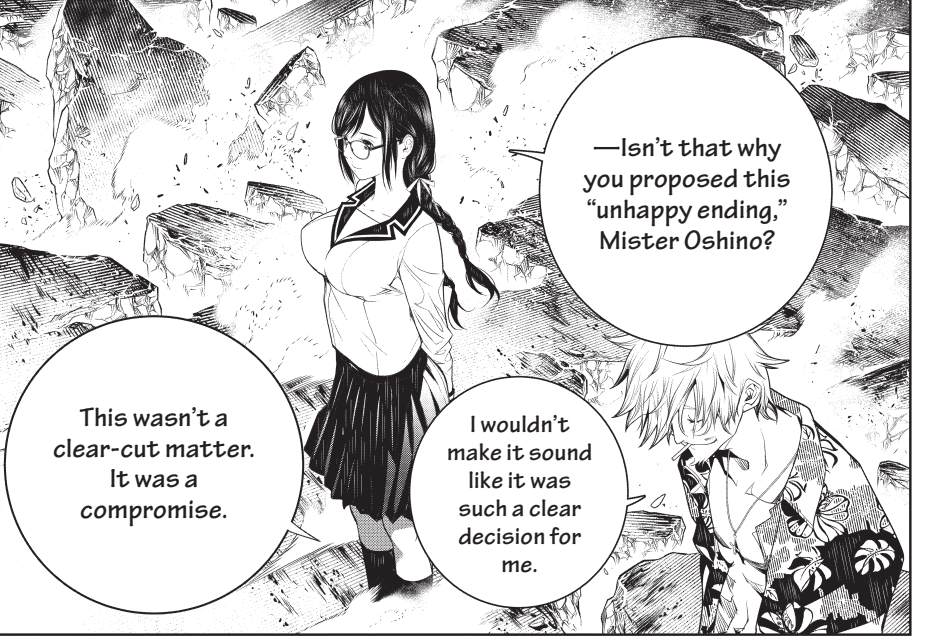


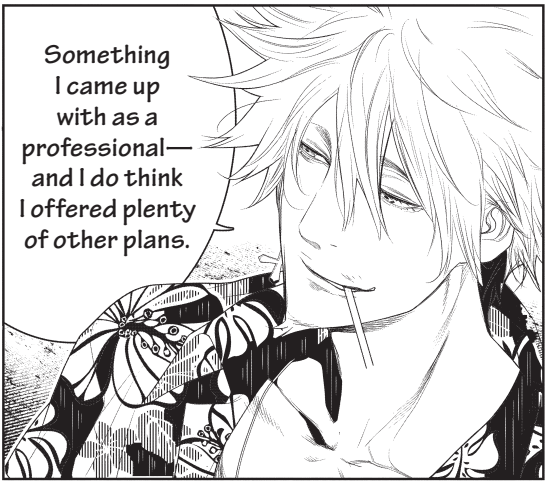
BAKEMONOGATARI

15

Ah.
That's great.
PHEW
I...
...breathed a sincere sigh of relief.
What is?

Is that really what you thought ...
...after seeing *that?*
That's as horrific as spectacles get. Did you see that...
...and then say, "Ah, that's great" without a moment of hesitation?
...
I think it's a good outcome, don't you?
If you did, that's what we'd call... abnormal.





But out of them all, Araragi chose the most incomprehensible way forward.

I have to wonder...
...what's gonna become of Araragi.
He chose to not slay a vampire, an enemy to all humanity.
He was able to come to that decision.
It makes me think that from here on out—he won't be able to walk away from anybody.

He won't be able to give up on anyone.
Not a person.
...
Not a girl who's a victim.
Not a girl who devotes herself to wishing.
Not a girl lost in the streets.
Not a girl with no weight.

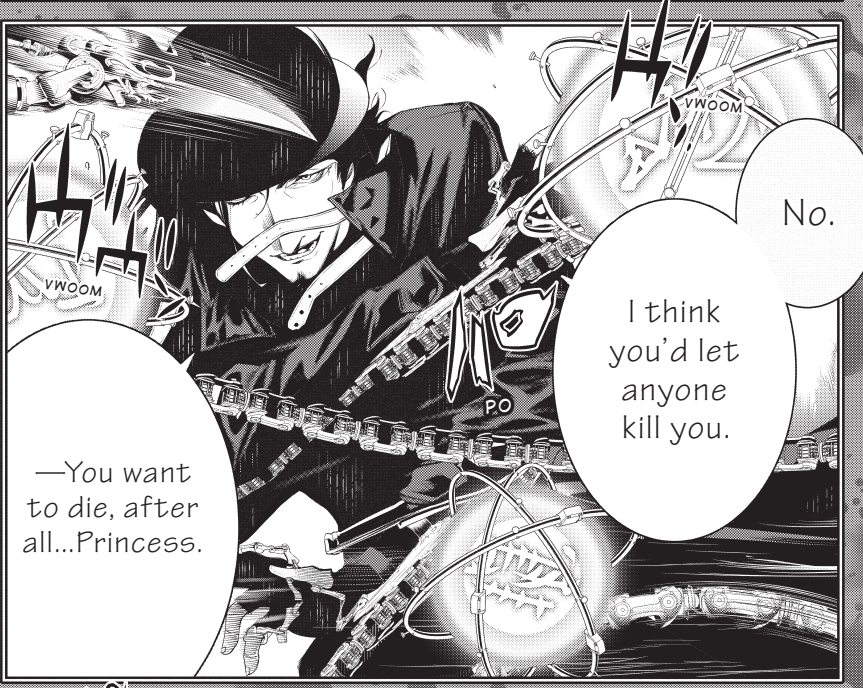
Can Araragi really save them all?

I have to wonder—

Indeed... *he*...
...spoke such words to me.
Ah... Aye.
...
Wait but a little longer ...
...Guil-lotine Cutter.

GRRRSH!
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
GRRK
I will soon return my servant to being human.
I shall play by the rules of the game.
Would this not fulfill thy precious duty? Stay out of this, for the sake of thine oh-so-noble cause.
One will die, and another will become human.
And two demons will vanish in the process.
You can't do it.
You're not going to make that boy into a human again.
Because— there's no way it would ever happen.
I'm afraid I can't wait that long.

WHOOSH
What?
So, thy claim is that I would never allow him to kill me?
That I am that petty and mean...?

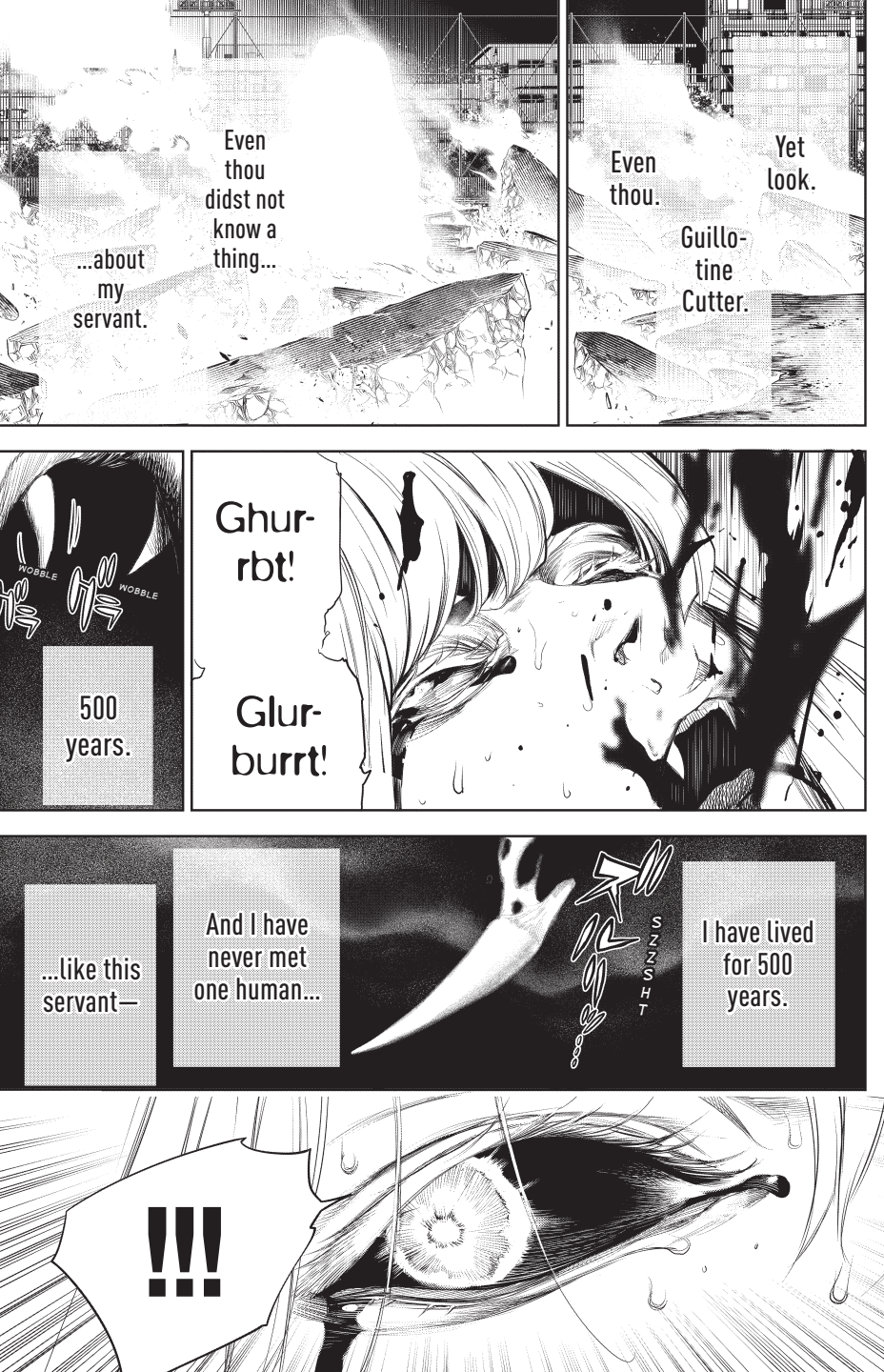

VWOOM
VWOOM
PO
No.
I think you'd let anyone kill you.
—You want to die, after all...Princess.

POP
PO-PO-POP
which is to say God— say this...
But I—

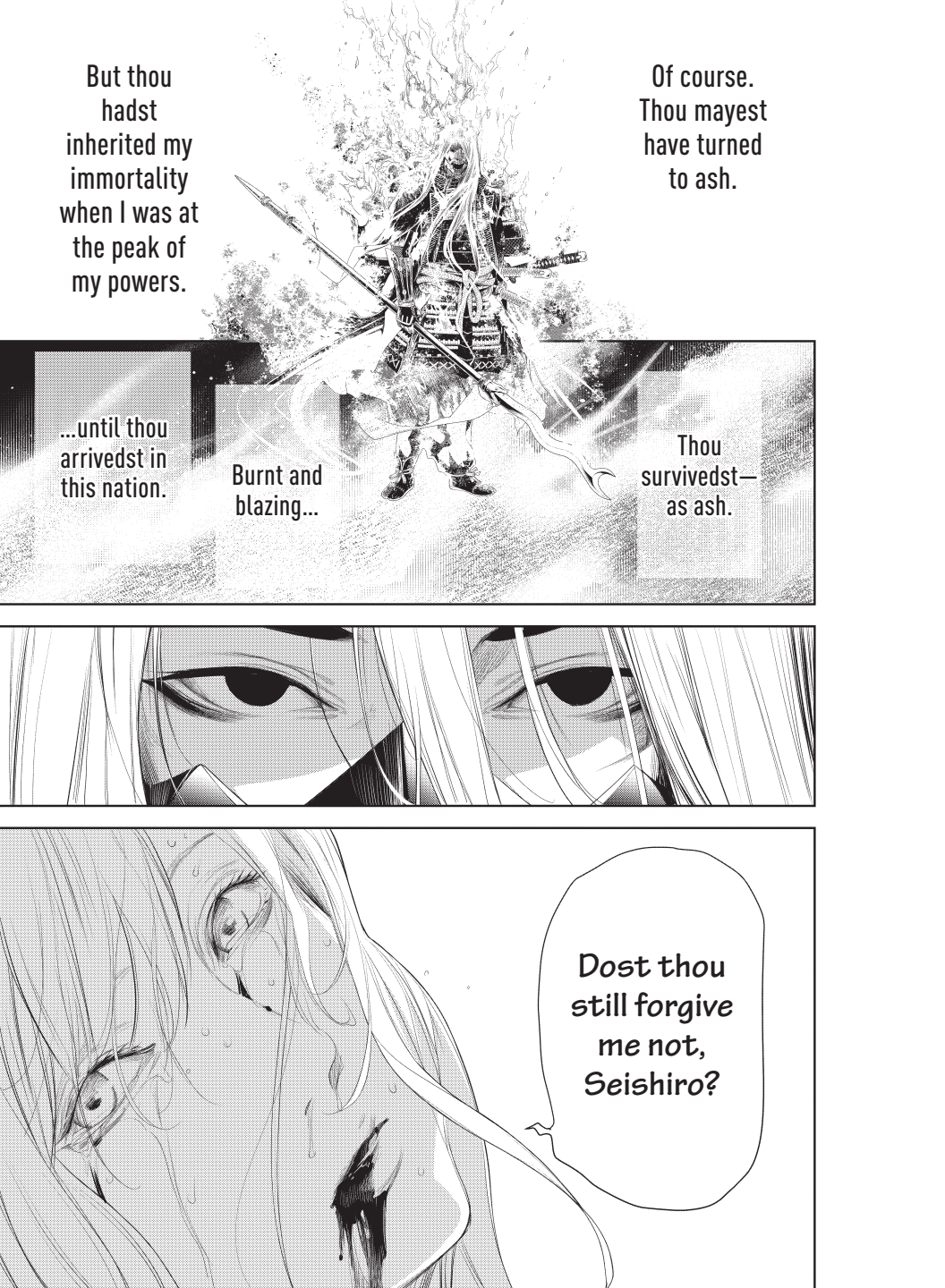
That boy...
...would never be able to kill you.
SCRRRRCH
GSH
Why do you say he could kill you ...
...when he couldn't even kill the likes of me?
...
—Oh, but yes, there is one thing.

SCRRRCH
SHHNK
SHHNK
SHHNK
SHHNK
SHHNK
VRIP
VRIP
VRIP
VRIP
Just one way ...
THWONK
BA-KLAK
...that might work.
You simply ...
...need to exact your revenge on me.

If you do— the boy will kill you.
And that will happily return him to his humanity.
That is how I can rid the world of two demons.
—A way to make everybody happy, is it not?
...
I...
...could not understand what he meant.
But indeed, things proceeded just as he said they would.

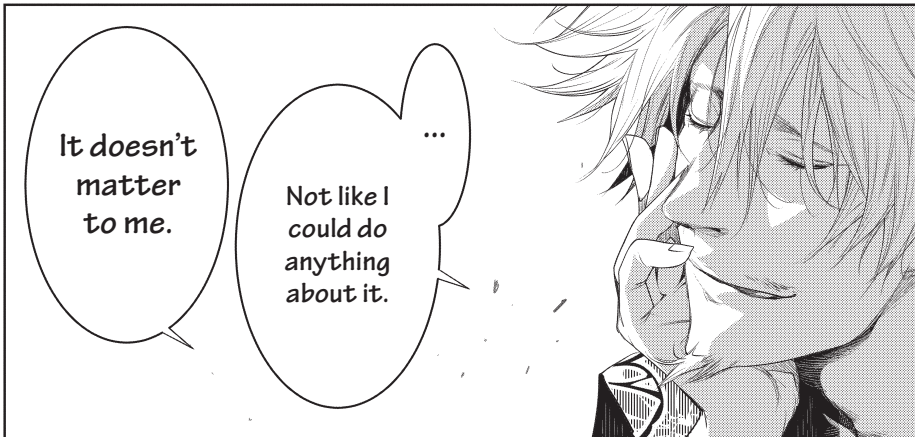

Even thou didst not know a thing...
...about my servant.
Even thou.
Yet look.
Guillo-tine Cutter.
WOBBLE
WOBBLE
500 years.
Ghur-rbt!
Glur-burrt!
...like this servant—
And I have never met one human...
SZZSHT
I have lived for 500 years.
!!!

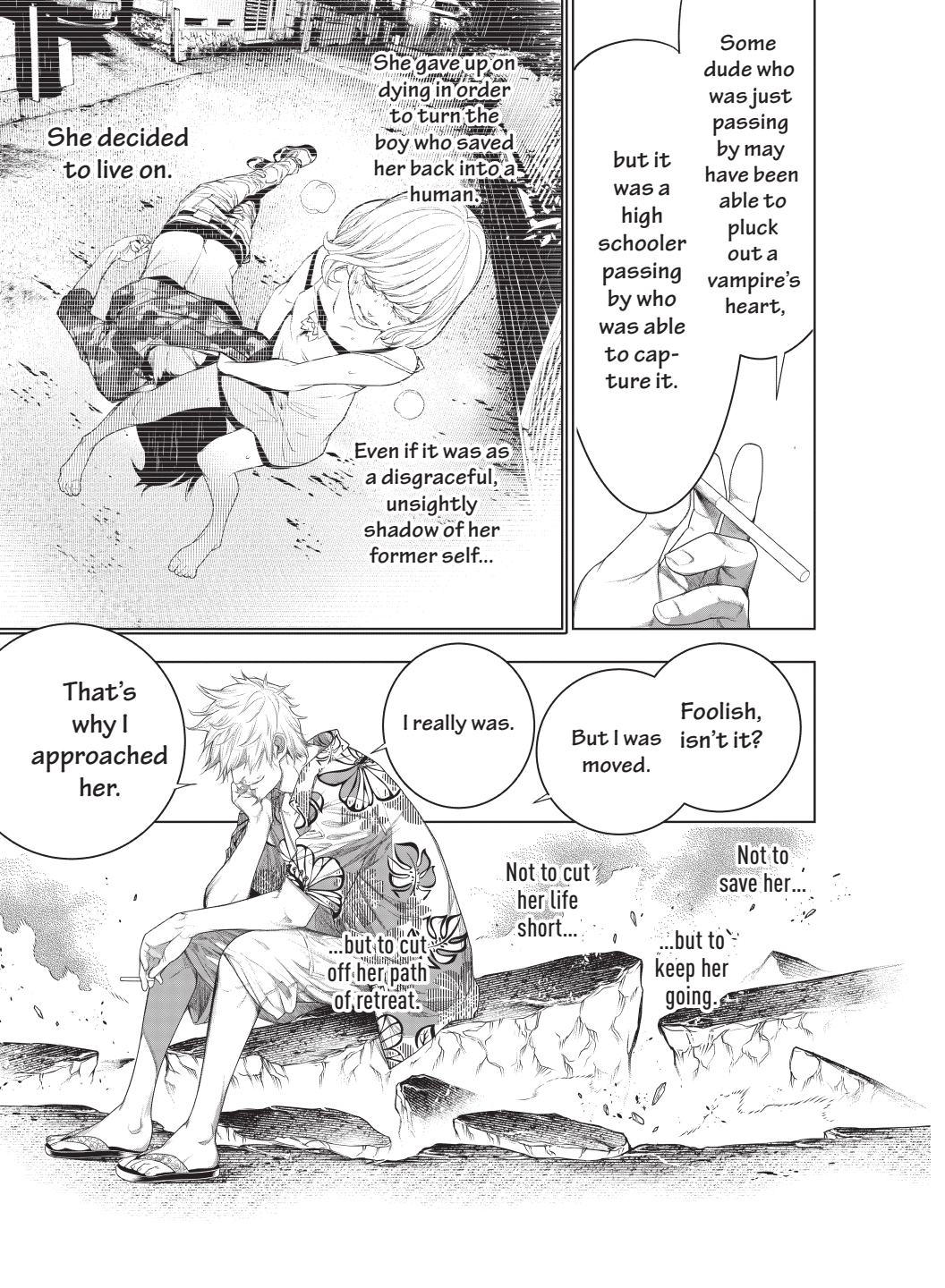
WHOOM
...
...

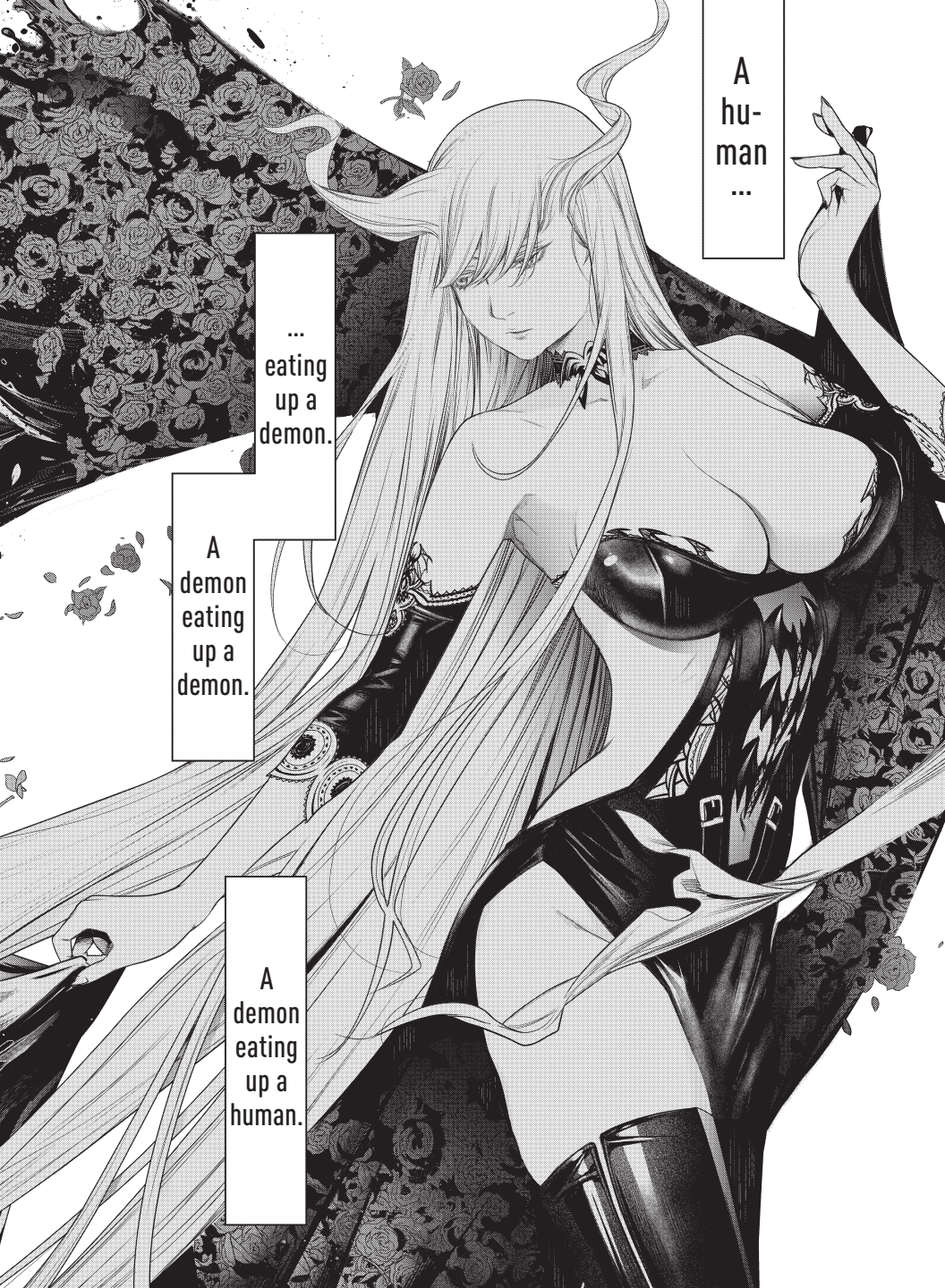

But thou hadst inherited my immortality when I was at the peak of my powers.
Of course. Thou mayest have turned to ash.
...until thou arrivedst in this nation.
Burnt and blazing...
Thou survivedst— as ash.
Dost thou still forgive me not, Seishiro?

Dost thou still demand...

...that I live on?




She decided to live on.
She gave up on dying in order to turn the boy who saved her back into a human.
Even if it was as a disgraceful, unsightly shadow of her former self...
Some dude who was just passing by may have been able to pluck out a vampire's heart,
but it was a high schooler passing by who was able to capture it.
That's why I approached her.
I really was.
But I was moved.
Foolish, isn't it?
...but to cut off her path of retreat.
Not to cut her life short...
...but to keep her going.
Not to save her...


A hu-man ...
... eating up a demon.
A demon eating up a demon.
A demon eating up a human.

The two have become one, as if locked in an embrace. You can say what you want about them, but it isn't really any of those.
From now on, he's going to be inhuman.
And from now on, she's not even going to be a demon.

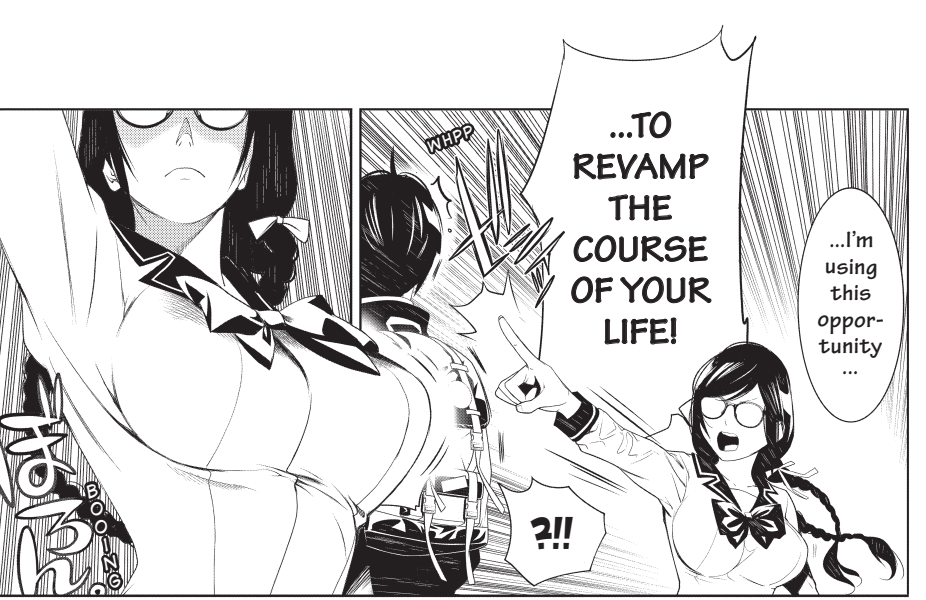
Our princess may have lost her heart...
...but she never lost her soul. So now, in her final years...
...I just hope...
That she has at least one reason to smile in the end.
...that at least one good thing happens to her.

Now for the punch line of this story.
BAKEMONOGATARI
Or rather, my life from now.
Whoa...
New Term Class Ros
3—A
01 Araragi, Koyomi
02 Otsu, Makoto
03 Kakinuma, Yumi
04 Kijima, Saeko
22 Hanekawa, Tsubasa

...Oh. Look who it is. ...Howdy, Araragi.
...I-Is something the matter, Miss Hanekawa?
POP
So, we're in the same class.
Looking forward to it.
I forgot my bra in the P.E. shed...!!!
SLUMP
Hiding her bra.

Don't worry, Hanekawa.
...I, Tsubasa Hanekawa, made the greatest mistake of my life... and it will be my lifelong shame.
While it was no time to be worrying about that kind of thing...
They've probably found it by now...
I made sure to grab it!!!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?!!

GIVE THEM BACK!
That means the top and bottom are united as a set in my room...
S-Still...
I'm surprised you kept that in mind under the circumstances...
Hey, hey. Don't say such sad things.
Your underwear was always my top priority during all of spring break.
THAT'S THE SADDEST THING I'VE EVER HEARD!
Well, now that we really are in the same class...
Or so I say, but...


...I'm using this opportunity...
...TO REVAMP THE COURSE OF YOUR LIFE!
WHIP
?!!
BOING

Then again, this is you we're talking about...
Maybe I should be saying *de-vamp* instead?
So naturally, I was selected by our duly elected class president...
...and ended up becoming class vice president, of all people.

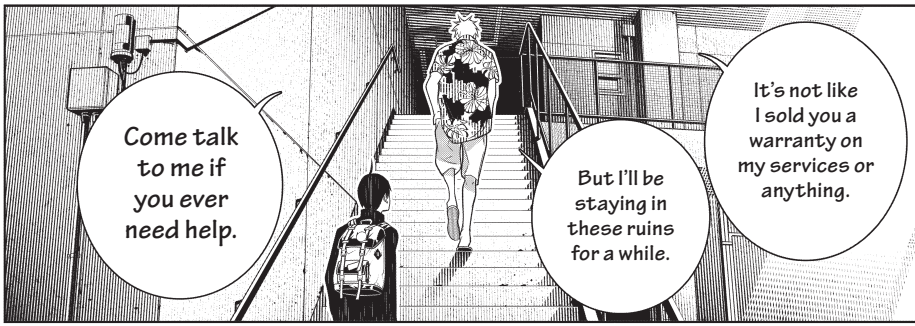
Well, just let me know if you're ever having trouble.
I'll be happy to lend you a shoulder to rub any time.
All right. I'll let you know if I ever want to rub them.
You bet I'll be doing some research before next time, and I'll be emotionally prepared for it as well...
Because I want to make sure it feels good when I get my hands on them!
We're... talking about my shoulders... right...?
Oh, yeah.
By the way ...

I know that vampires suck human blood—
but I heard that sucking blood as food and sucking blood to create a thrall have completely different meanings.
...Creating a thrall is apparently ...
...more like intercourse.
...I don't really know the vampire take on chastity, but...
...she ...
...
She only had two in 500 years—she seems to be a very modest woman...

It's still there.
The wound.

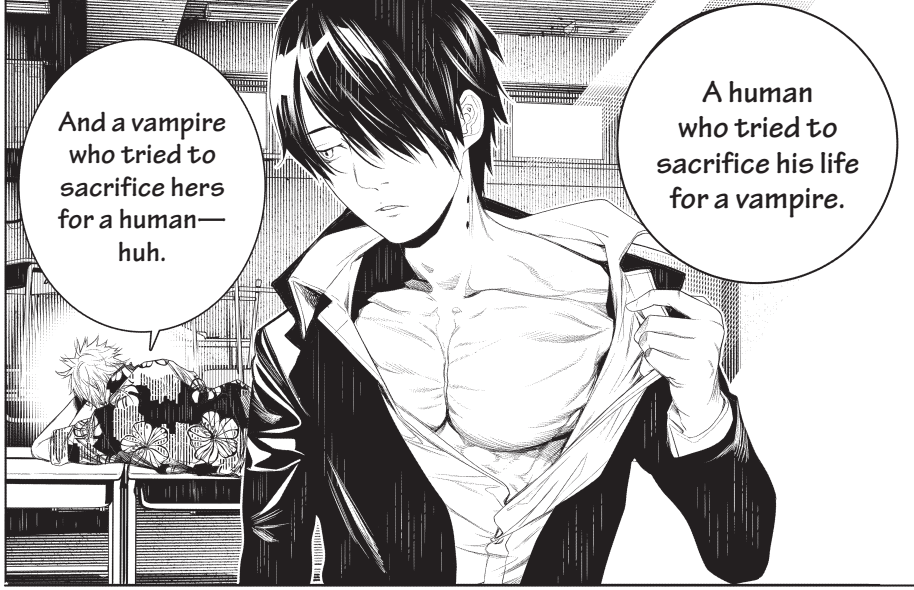
CHANK
SKREE
And then—
after school that day...
Hey there. You're late, Araragi.
I've been waiting for ages.

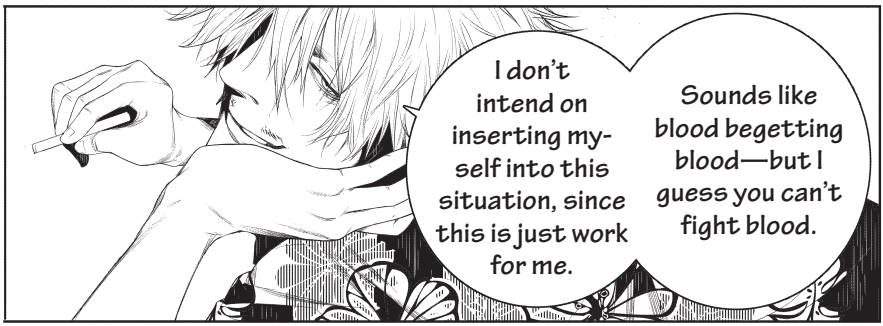
Ha haa. Almost mistook you for someone else. That uniform suits you.
Well, I *am* a student.
Oh, right. Yeah, you were the hero of a superpowered school action series.
That's long in the past.

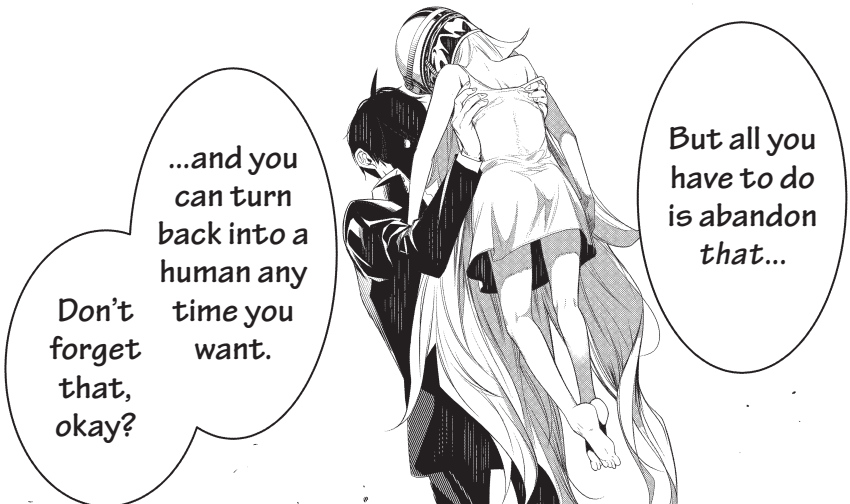

It's not like I sold you a warranty on my services or anything.
But I'll be staying in these ruins for a while.
Come talk to me if you ever need help.

All right.
Time for round one...

Why don't we get started?
SMAK
PAT
PAT


A human who tried to sacrifice his life for a vampire.
And a vampire who tried to sacrifice hers for a human—huh.


I don't intend on inserting myself into this situation, since this is just work for me.
Sounds like blood begetting blood—but I guess you can't fight blood.

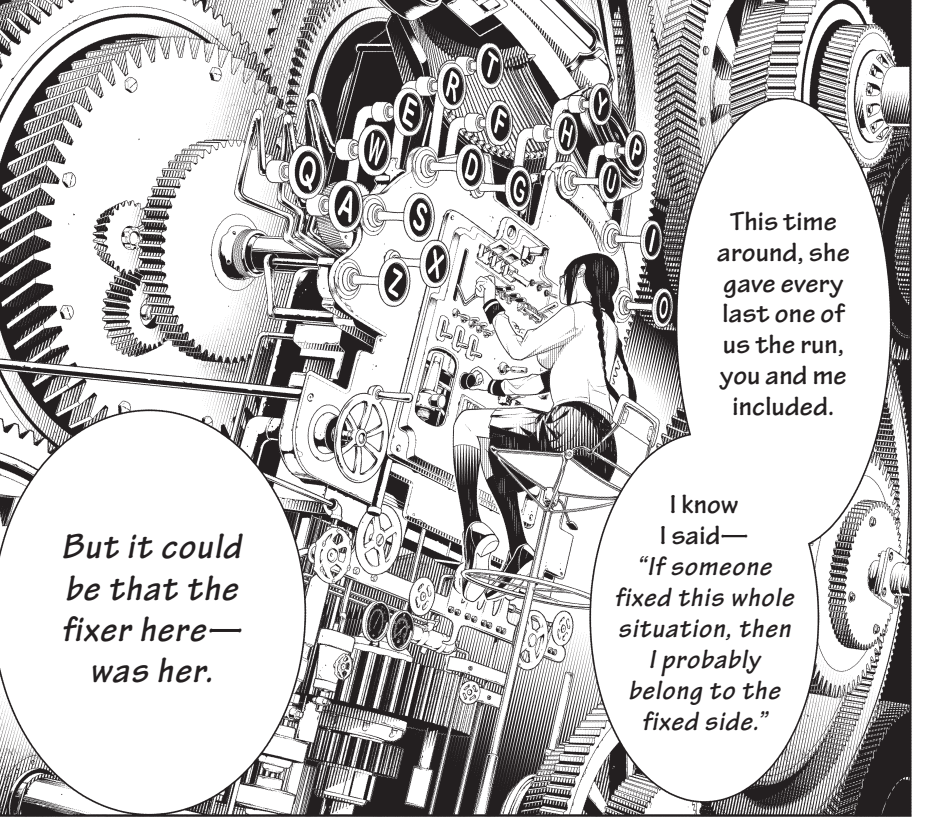

But all you have to do is abandon that...
...and you can turn back into a human any time you want.
Don't forget that, okay?

...
I don't need to remember it in the first place.
I'm doing this because I want to.
Oh.
Then do as you want.
AAHM
AAHM

I guess you could call it human egotism?
The disgust you felt over vampires eating humans.
It's really no different from people getting turned off by a cute little kitty eating a mouse.
And now that you've filed down its fangs, plucked out its claws...
...crushed its throat, and neutered it— you've decided to keep it as a pet.
You were made a pet, then turned around to make your master your pet.
It's certainly no heart-warmer when you think of it that way.

Having wounded one another,
we now lick each other's wounds.
If you want to die tomorrow,
I'm ready for my life to end tomorrow.
Damaged goods both,
we sought out each other.
If you care to live for today...
...then so will I.
I spoke the words out loud,
and made my vow to her.

Oh.
That's right.
I hate to meddle, but...
...you'd better not take your eyes off Missy Class President, Araragi.
That girl...
...is a little too danger-ous.


But it could be that the fixer here— was her.
I know I said— "If someone fixed this whole situation, then I probably belong to the fixed side."
This time around, she gave every last one of us the run, you and me included.

The idea of her ever becoming the center of a situation—
Well, that sends a shiver down even my spine. I can't imagine what might happen.

...I know.
We're friends, after all.

The World of Plants
AUTHOR NAME
Friendship
The Book of Imaginary Beings
Ten Methods for Success

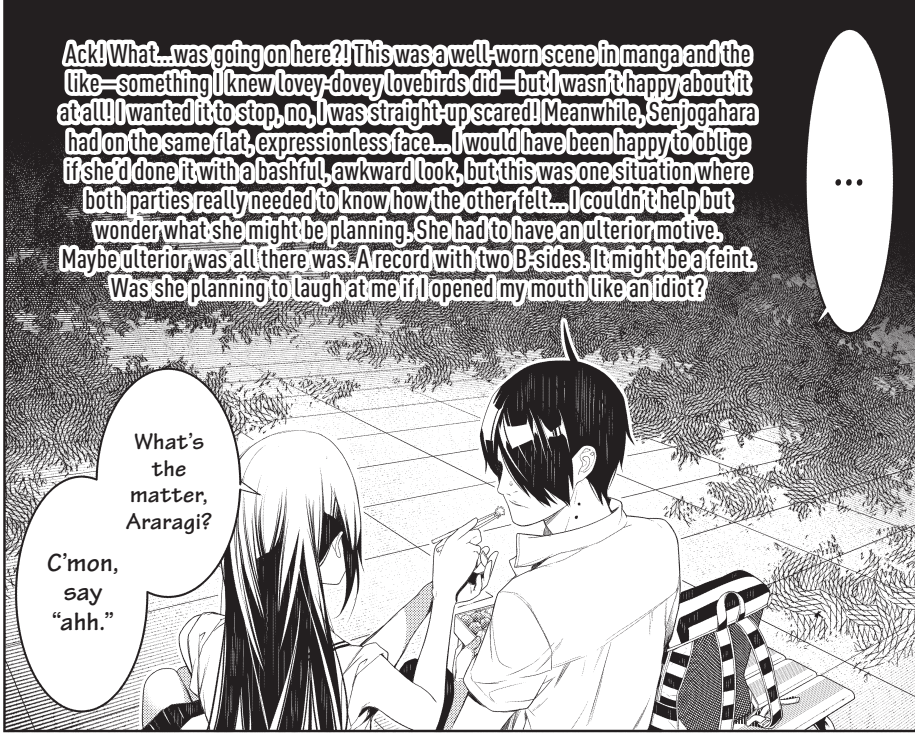
BAKEMONOGATARI

05: Tsubasa Cat

BAKEMONOGATARI

I'll go on a date.
I glanced at Hitagi Senjo-gahara.
PLOP

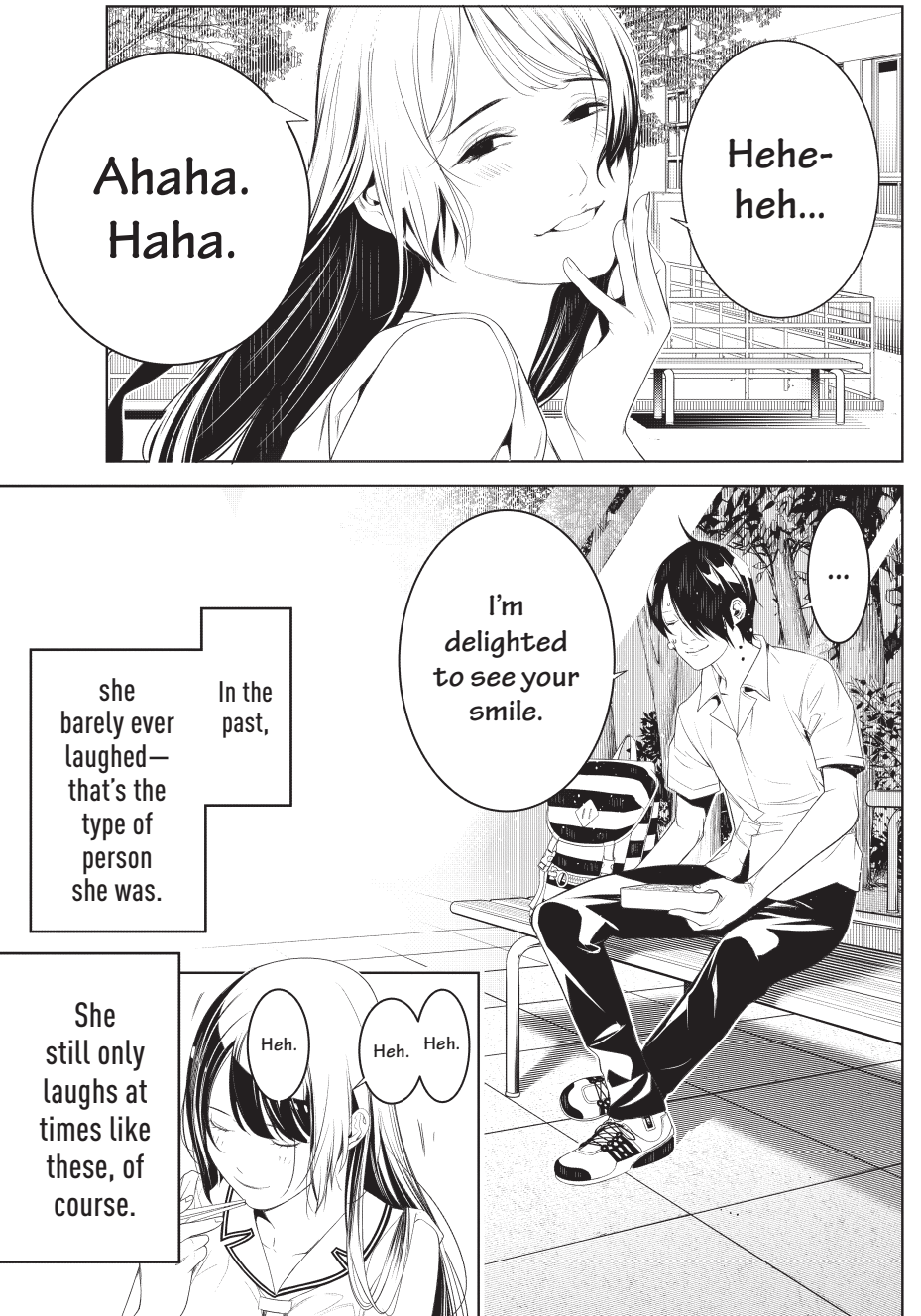
She wore— her summer uniform.
Excuse me...?
A certain fad was taking off among the girls at my school—one where they took the already short sleeves of their uniforms, folded them back even further, and pinned them there to make it look like they were wearing sleeveless tops.
Hmm.
I'd assumed that Senjogahara was the kind of girl who frowns on following such trends, but that didn't seem to be the case.
Say "ahh."

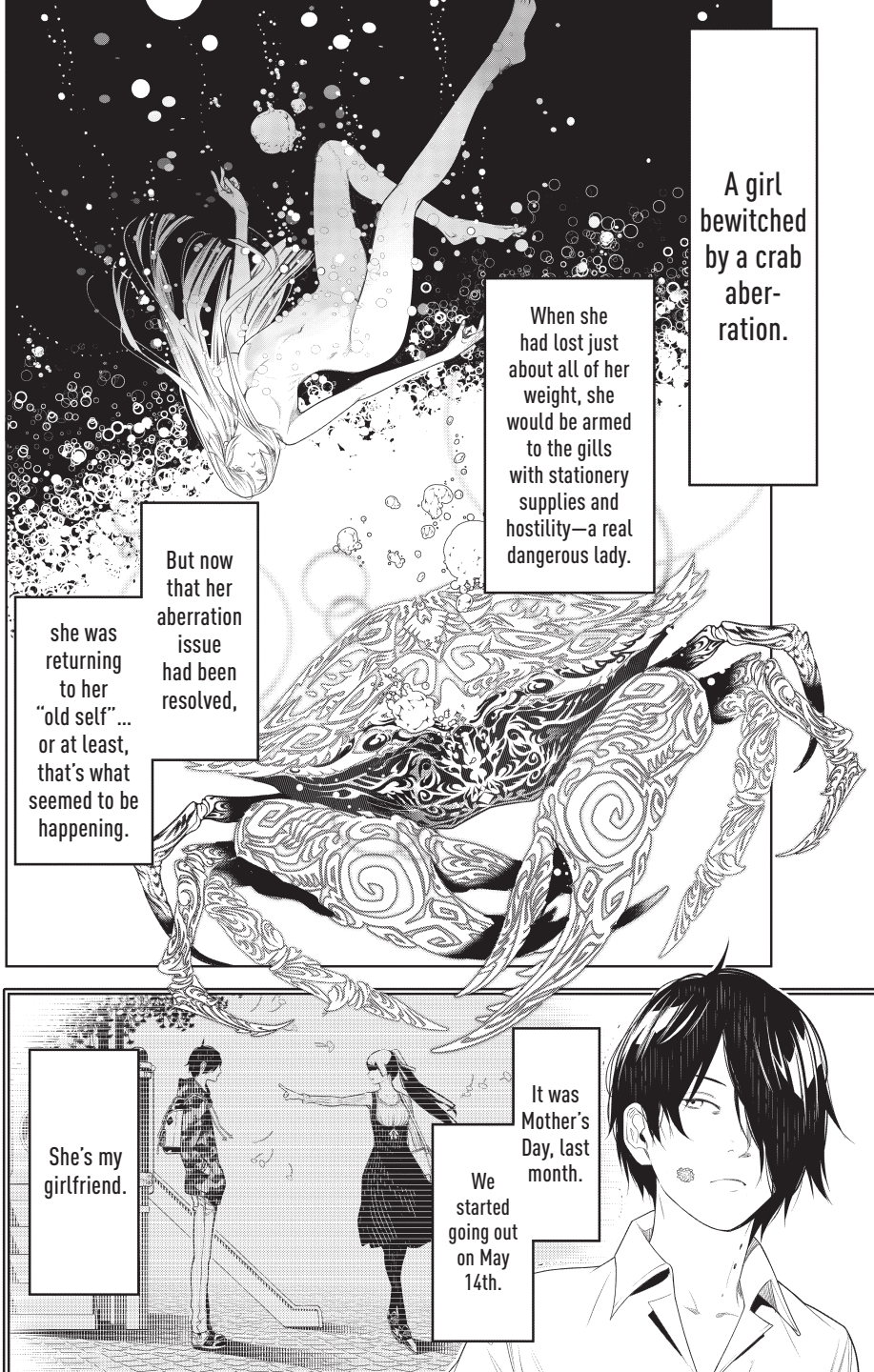

Ack! What...was going on here?! This was a well-worn scene in manga and the like—something I knew lovey-dovey lovebirds did—but I wasn't happy about it at all! I wanted it to stop, no, I was straight-up scared! Meanwhile, Senjogahara had on the same flat, expressionless face... I would have been happy to oblige if she'd done it with a bashful, awkward look, but this was one situation where both parties really needed to know how the other felt... I couldn't help but wonder what she might be planning. She had to have an ulterior motive. Maybe ulterior was all there was. A record with two B-sides. It might be a feint. Was she planning to laugh at me if I opened my mouth like an idiot?
...
What's the matter, Araragi?
C'mon, say "ahh."

...
Hehe-heh.
Heh.

AH—
AAAHH.

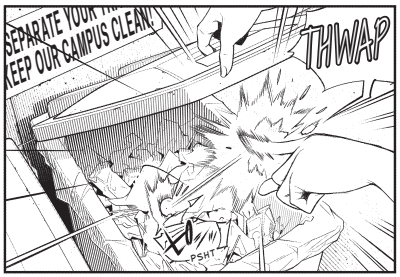
Take that.
SPLAT

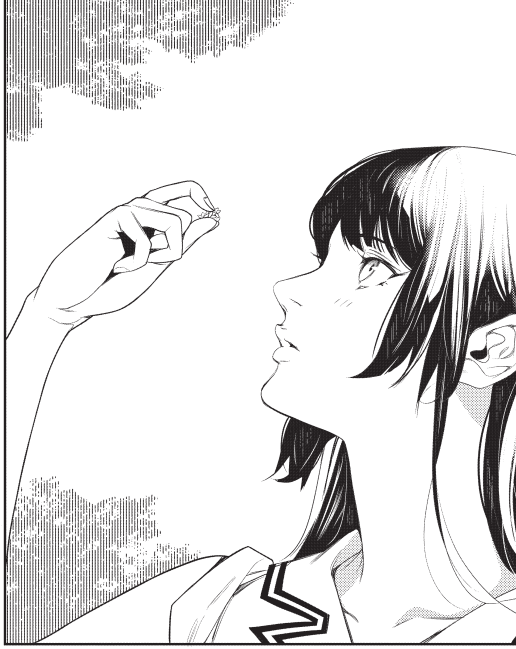

Ahaha.
Haha.
Hehe-
heh...
...
I'm delighted to see your smile.
In the past,
she barely ever laughed—that's the type of person she was.
She still only laughs at times like these, of course.
Heh.
Heh.
Heh.

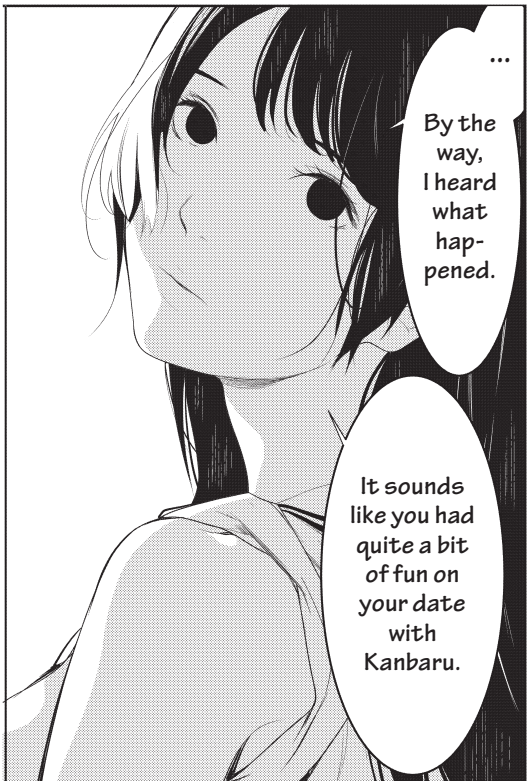

A girl bewitched by a crab aberration.
When she had lost just about all of her weight, she would be armed to the gills with stationery supplies and hostility—a real dangerous lady.
But now that her aberration issue had been resolved,
she was returning to her "old self"... or at least, that's what seemed to be happening.
It was Mother's Day, last month.
We started going out on May 14th.
She's my girlfriend.

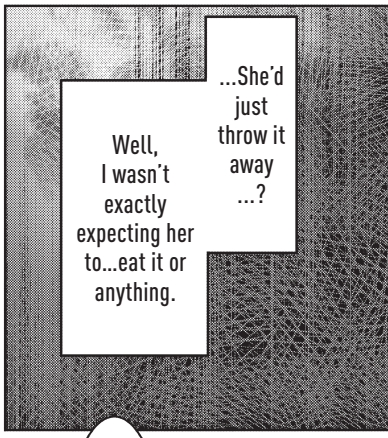
Ara-ragi.
You have rice on your cheek.
You put it there.
I'll get it for you.
PTT
ぴと。
Mmgh...!
Whoa...
W-Well, this is nice in its own way...!

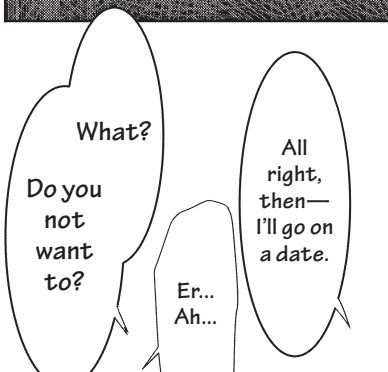
TH-
THMP

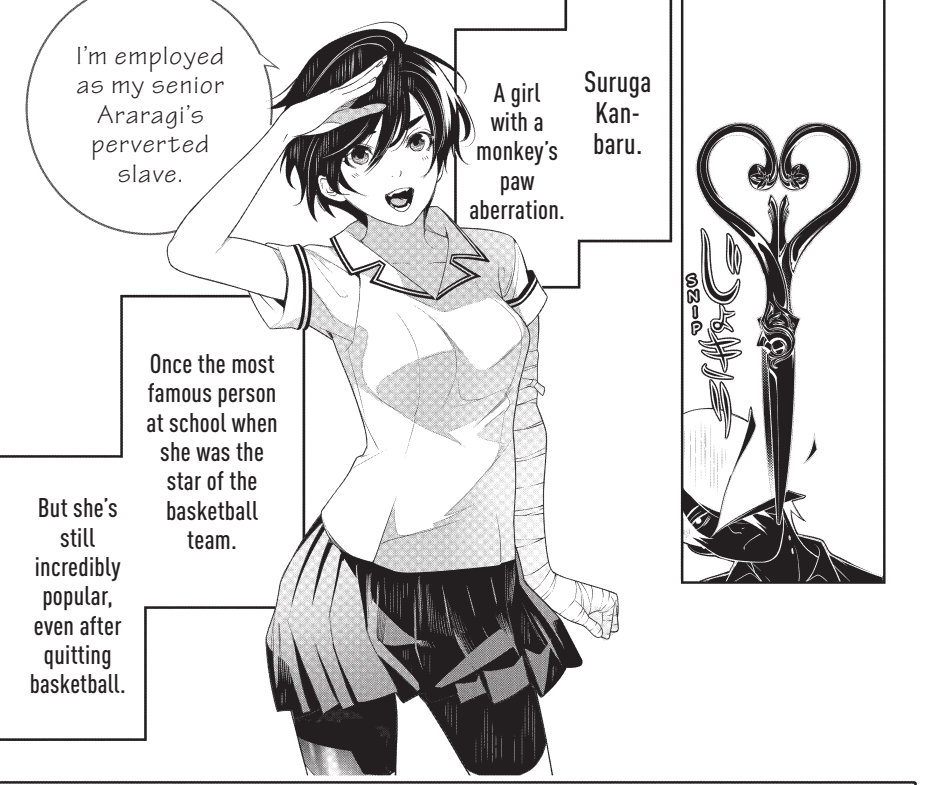

SEPARATE YOUR TR
KEEP OUR CAMPUS CLEAN!
THWAP
PSHT




...
By the way, I heard what happened.
It sounds like you had quite a bit of fun on your date with Kanbaru.

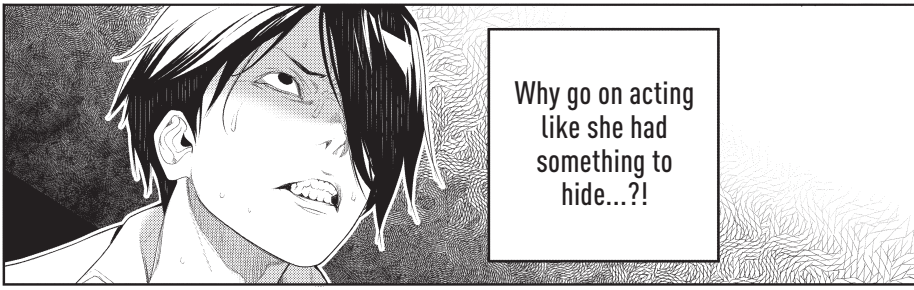

...She'd just throw it away...?
Well, I wasn't exactly expecting her to...eat it or anything.

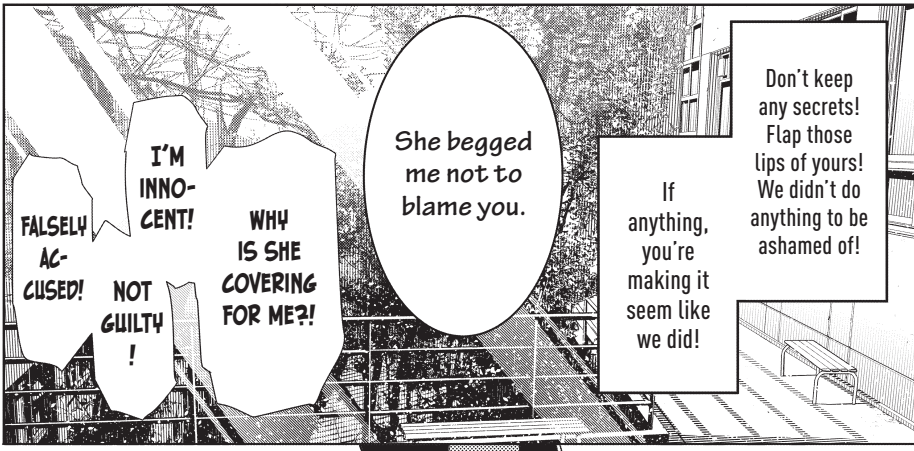

What?
Do you not want to?
Er... Ah...
All right, then— I'll go on a date.


I'm employed as my senior Araragi's perverted slave.
A girl with a monkey's paw aberration.
Suruga Kanbaru.
SNIP
Once the most famous person at school when she was the star of the basketball team.
But she's still incredibly popular, even after quitting basketball.

This girl, the personification of sociability...
...and I, a wash-out whose place in the classroom was akin to "decoration"—
Well, it certainly wasn't a date—
But it is true that we'd become quite close.
SQUISH

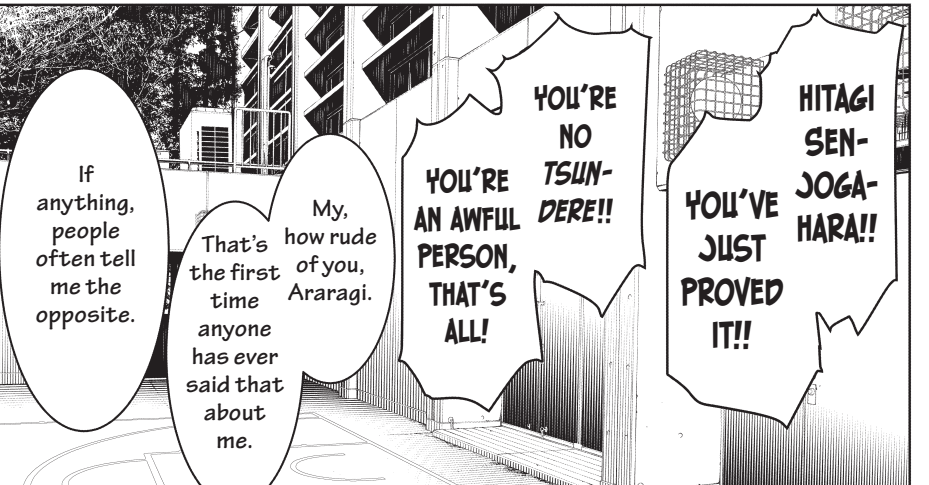
Sounds like you ended up spending the night together.
Though she was quite tight-lipped about it.


Why go on acting like she had something to hide...?!


She begged me not to blame you.
Don't keep any secrets! Flap those lips of yours! We didn't do anything to be ashamed of!
If anything, you're making it seem like we did!
I'M INNO-CENT!
FALSELY AC-CUSED!
NOT GUILTY!
WHY IS SHE COVERING FOR ME?!

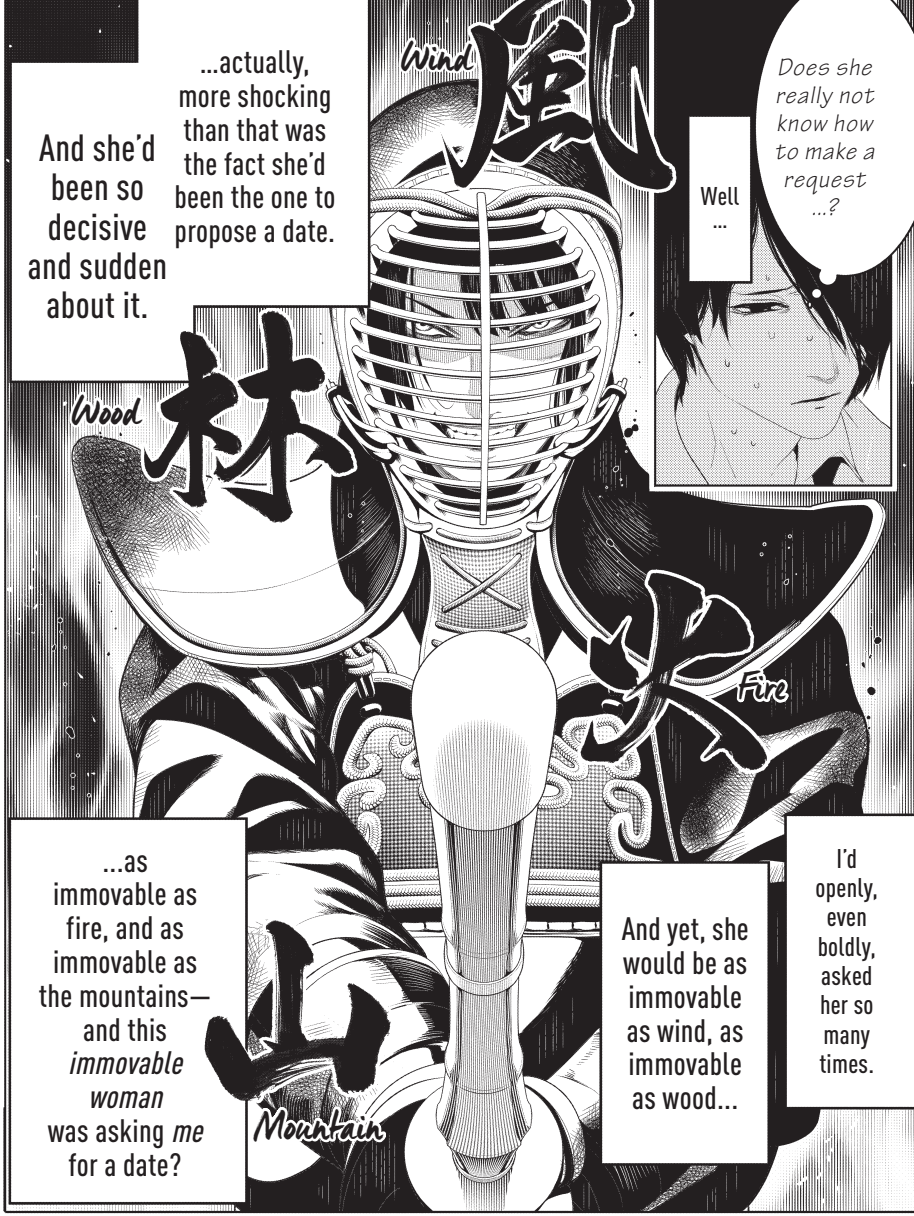
And, you know, that cute girl is more than happy to obey my every word.
Kanbaru is so cute, isn't she...?

On an unrelated note,
wouldn't you love to see such a cute girl...
hah...
...walking around school on all fours...
...naked only from the waist down?


HITAGI SEN-JOGA-HARA!!
YOU'VE JUST PROVED IT!!
YOU'RE NO TSUN-DERE!!
YOU'RE AN AWFUL PERSON, THAT'S ALL!
My, how rude of you, Araragi.
That's the first time anyone has ever said that about me.
If anything, people often tell me the opposite.

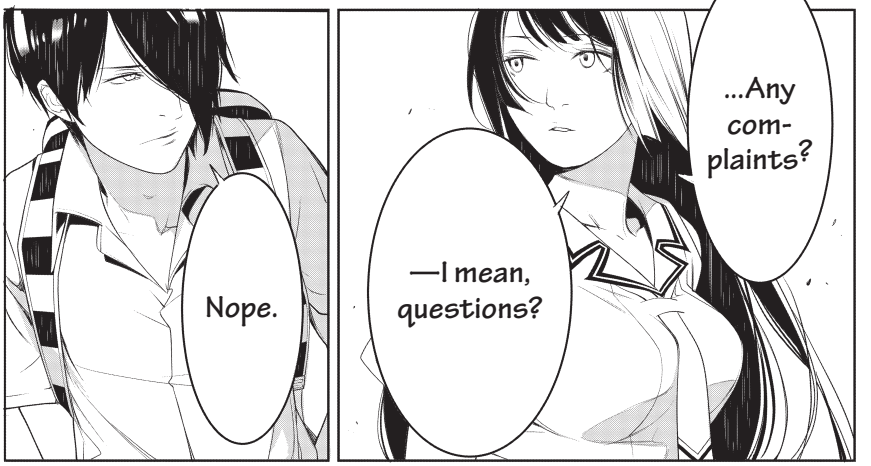
THEY'RE BEING SARCASTIC!
I'D GLADLY SAY IT IF YOU'RE OKAY WITH IT!
"What a lovely person you are," they say.
Excuse me? Are you saying those people were being dishonest with me?
I won't stand for anyone, even you, Araragi, casting doubts on their words...
YOU'RE STICKING UP FOR PEOPLE WHO'RE INSULTING YOU, DAMMIT!
All right.
Well.

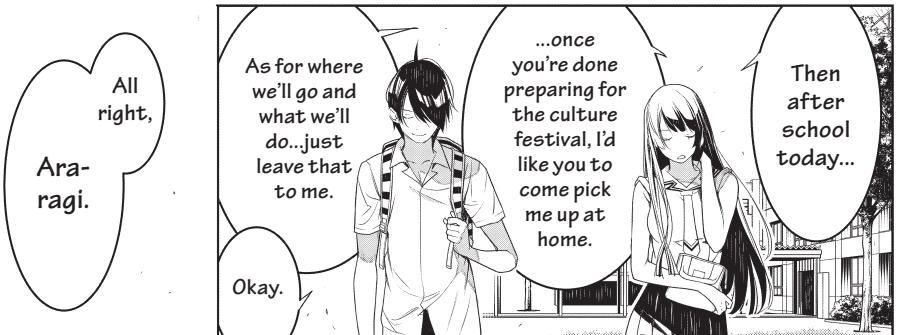
I'll go on a date.
...
...
Hold on...!
What would you... think to... about a... date...
Could I... bother you for a date?
No. That's not it. A date...



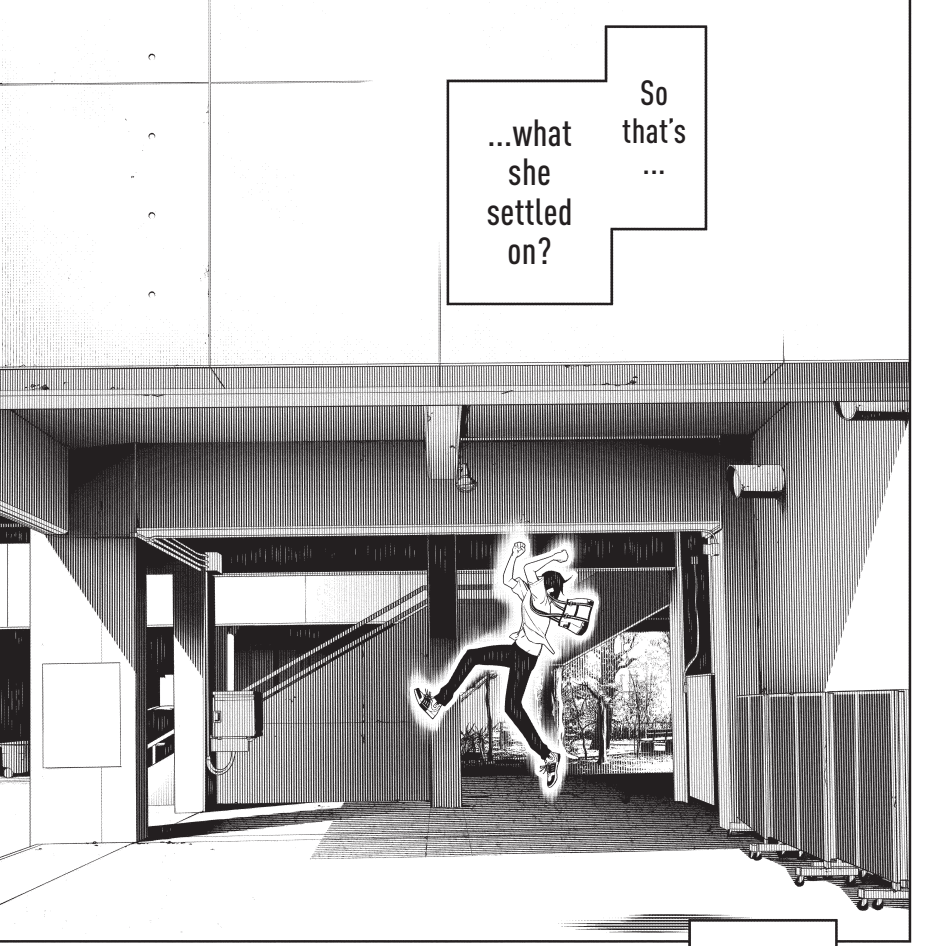
Tuesday. June 13.

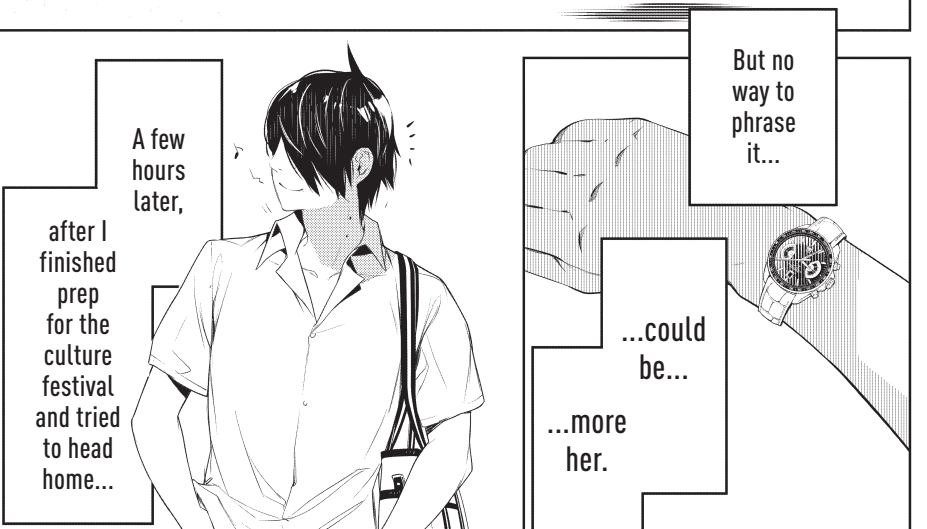
The day my personal hell that began during spring break would come to an end.
...a memorable day for me.
It was going to be...


Nope.
—I mean, questions?
...Any complaints?


All right, Araragi.
As for where we'll go and what we'll do...just leave that to me.
Okay.
...once you're done preparing for the culture festival, I'd like you to come pick me up at home.
Then after school today...

You'll go on a date with me.


So that's ...
...what she settled on?


A few hours later,
after I finished prep for the culture festival and tried to head home...
But no way to phrase it...
...could be...
...more her.

Nadeko Sengoku was waiting for me outside by the school's gate.
What's the mat-ter?
Er...
Um...
Ah.
Volleyball Shorts
(a.k.a. Gym Shorts):
A type of women's athletic wear. Worn on the lower half of the body.
School Swimsuit:
A swimsuit used during swimming physical education classes in Japanese schools.
She asked if I could return some of Kanbaru's personal effects.

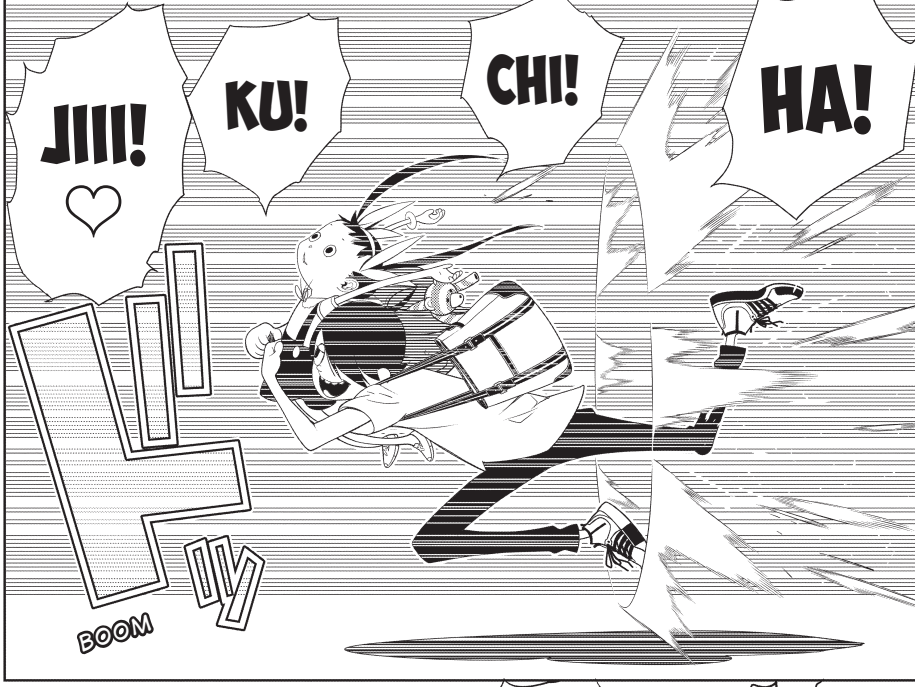
ズキン
THROB
Well. This,
that, and some other stuff happened.
ひら
FWIP
ズキン
THROB
But then I headed to my date.
ズキン
THROB
ズキズキズキズキズキズキズキズキ
THROB

June 13.
Tuesday.
The day my personal hell would come to an end.
It was going to be...
SQUEEZE
...a day...
...to remember.

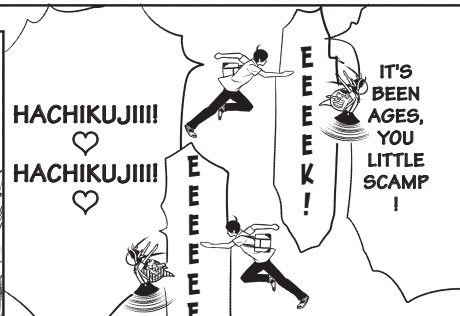
BAKEMONOGATARI

GRRRSH
FWISH
June 13.
Tuesday.
It was going to be a day...
...to remember.
Mommy! That man's riding his bike as fast as our train!
Oh, that's nice, dear.
Wait.
WHAT?!
Whoa. Isn't that Araragi?
That guy's always ridiculous.

...AH!
Whoa there!
That's ...!


JIII!
♡
KU!
CHI!
HA!
BOOM

GRRGH
RRIP
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
KRAK
SNAP
SNAP


HACHIKUJIII!
♡
HACHIKUJIII!
♡
EEEEEEEEEK!
EEEEEK!
IT'S BEEN AGES, YOU LITTLE SCAMP!

I'M GONNA GET A PEEK AT THOSE PANTIES, YOU LOVABLE LITTLE LADY!
EEEEEEEK!
SO, SO CUTE! LEMME TOUCH YOU MORE, LEMME HUG YOU SOME MORE!
HAHA-HAHA! OH, YOU'RE JUST SO CUTE!

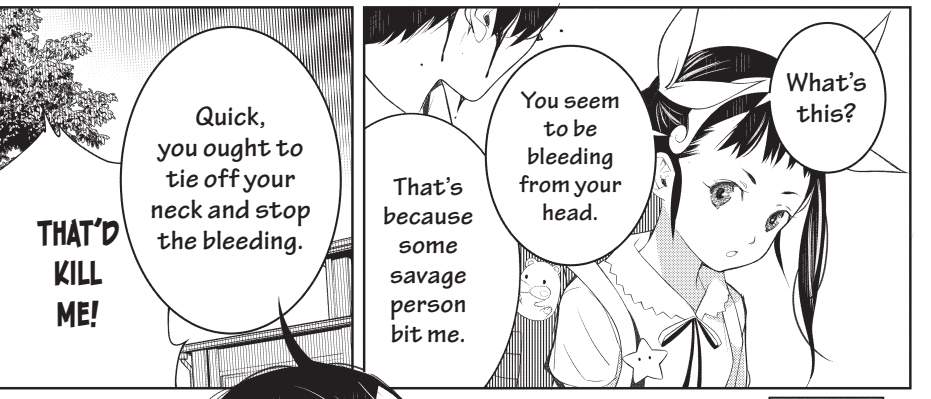
Words ...
...that should have been directed at myself.
THAT HURTS! WHAT'RE YOU DOING?!

GRRRRR
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
SCURRY
KUH-HH-HUH-HH ...
KUH-HH-HUH-HH ...
Now you sound like some kind of mech-anized villain.
The friendly guy that everyone in the neigh-borhood knows.
Hey, look. It's me.
It's okay. I'm not an enemy.
GHAAH!
SSSHH!
FSSSHH!

Hm?
BLINK
MUNCH
MUNCH

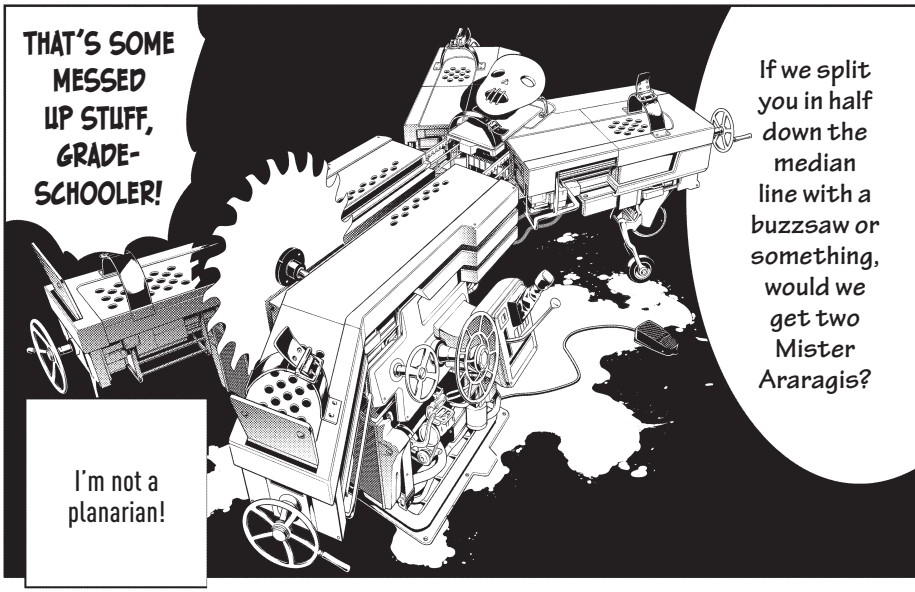
Oh, if it isn't Mister Ararandy.
Don't call me names that make me sound sexually frustrated.
It's Araragi.
Mayoi Hachikuji.
A ghost girl...
...who's a snail aberration.
I'm sorry.
Slip of the tongue.
She might have been technically right for once, since she bit me.
At least this time around, maybe I was to blame for the nickname as well as for getting bitten.

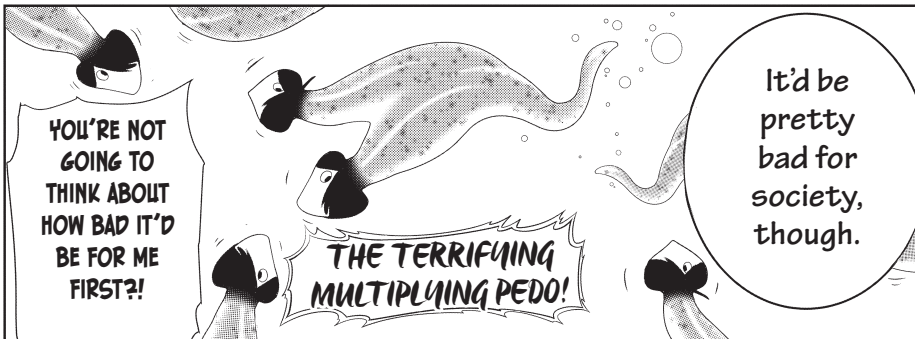
Oh? Your summer uniform?
It works well with your hair that makes you look like an alien from Planet Afro.
HOLD ON! I'M PRETTY SURE PLANET AFRO IS SOMETHING YOU JUST MADE UP!
BUT WOULDN'T THEY OBVIOUSLY HAVE AFROS THERE?!
Your savage personality is betrayed by your girlish face, Mister Araragi.

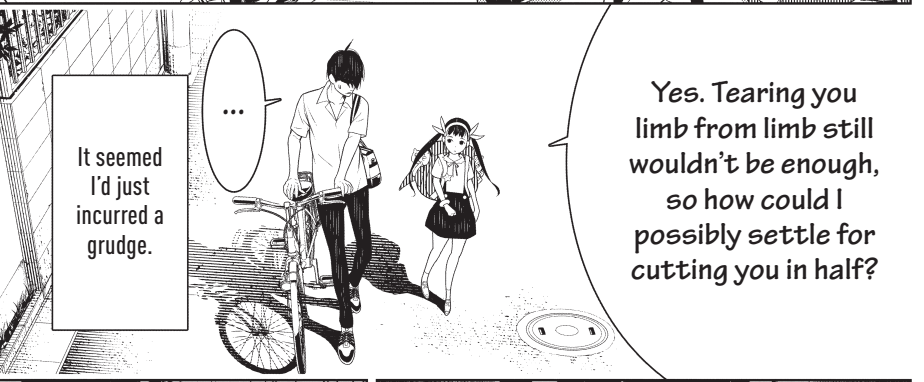

What's this?
You seem to be bleeding from your head.
That's because some savage person bit me.
Quick, you ought to tie off your neck and stop the bleeding.
THAT'D KILL ME!

How could I explain it?
I loved Senjogahara best.
I got along with Kanbaru better than anyone else.
But for whatever reason, I had the most fun talking to Hachikuji.
GUSH
GUSH

OKAY, THEN! THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO TRY!
YOU CAN HEAL WOUNDS LIKE THAT IN NO TIME AT ALL, CAN'T YOU, MISTER ARARAGI!

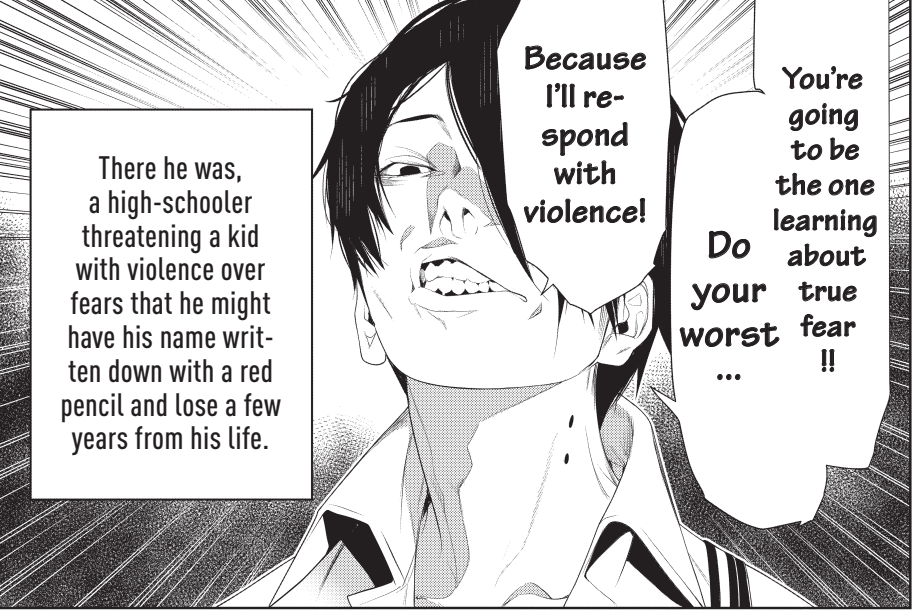

THAT'S SOME MESSED UP STUFF, GRADE-SCHOOLER!
If we split you in half down the median line with a buzzsaw or something, would we get two Mister Araragis?
I'm not a planarian!


YOU'RE NOT GOING TO THINK ABOUT HOW BAD IT'D BE FOR ME FIRST?!
THE TERRIFYING MULTIPLYING PEDO!
It'd be pretty bad for society, though.



*Writing someone's name in red is taboo in Japan. Doing so is said to shorten the life of the person whose name was written.

You're going to make me beg you to run it slowly back up...?!
Y-You monster ...!
And that's not all... I'm going to be the one sneaking up behind you next time. I'll slowly run my finger up—then down your spine.
Oh, I'm only getting started...
You poor thing... You're going to learn what true fear is...
...Ex-cuse me?
You'd better watch what you say, Hachikuji.
?!!
...
Ha!


There he was, a high-schooler threatening a kid with violence over fears that he might have his name written down with a red pencil and lose a few years from his life.
Because I'll respond with violence!
You're going to be the one learning about true fear !!
Do your worst ...

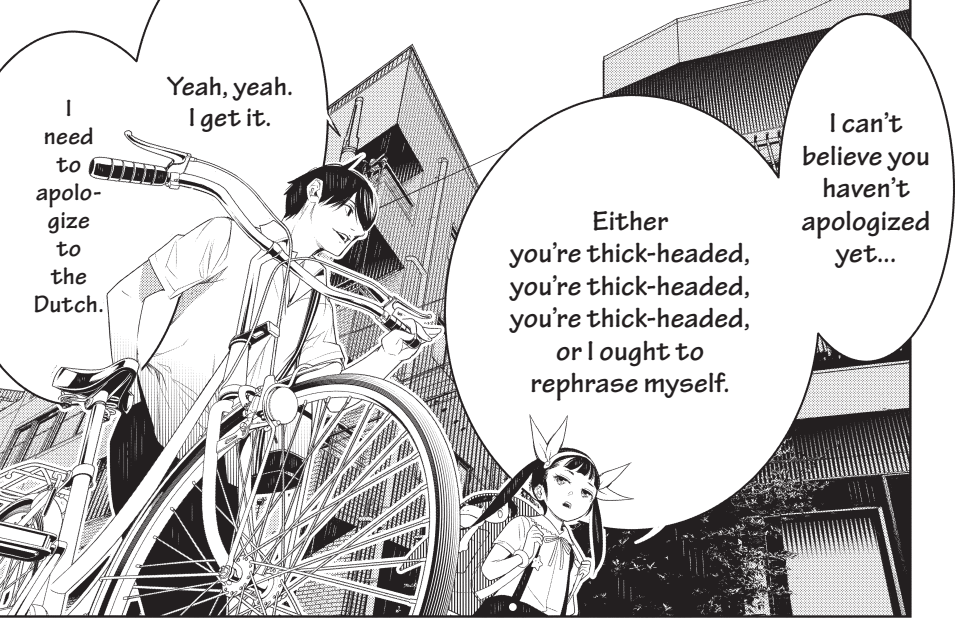
Mister Araragi, you'd better dutch what you say!

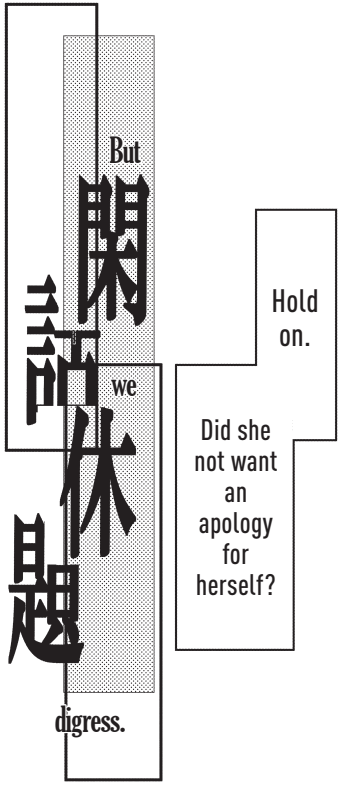
Yes, me.
It's not too late to apologize.
I'll still forgive you.

WHAT DID I EVER DO TO THEM?!
AM I GOING TO HAVE TO APOLOGIZE TO THE PEOPLE OF THE NETHERLANDS NOW?!
Not watch ?!
DUTCH ?!
NEDERLANDERS

GRRRSH
If you don't hurry up and say sorry, you'll find yourself on the receiving end of the Whirling Dance of Windmills.
THE TOWER ROTATES, NOT THE SAILS?!

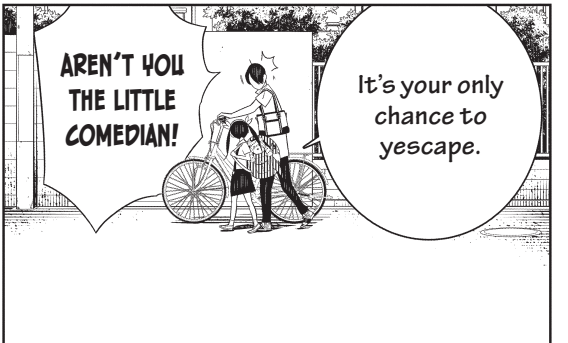
How did we get here?
So, what now? Are you so eager to earn the name of Don?!
HE WAS SPANISH, THOUGH!
Apologize now, unless you want to meet Don Quixote's fate.





Hold on.

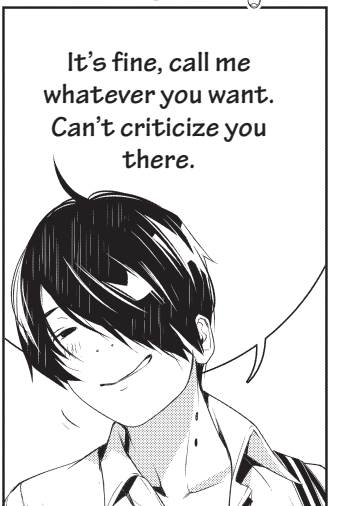
Did she not want an apology for herself?



Exams?
Ah.
Elementary exit exams?
I'm almost out of high school, why would I be taking those now?!
For university! You know I'm still technically a student at the most prestigious school in this area!
I'm sure you'll be fine, Mister Araragi.
You can get things done if you put your mind to them.
Ah... I'm happy to hear that from you.
Graduating had been my goal up until now—but I thought I'd stop setting my sights so low.

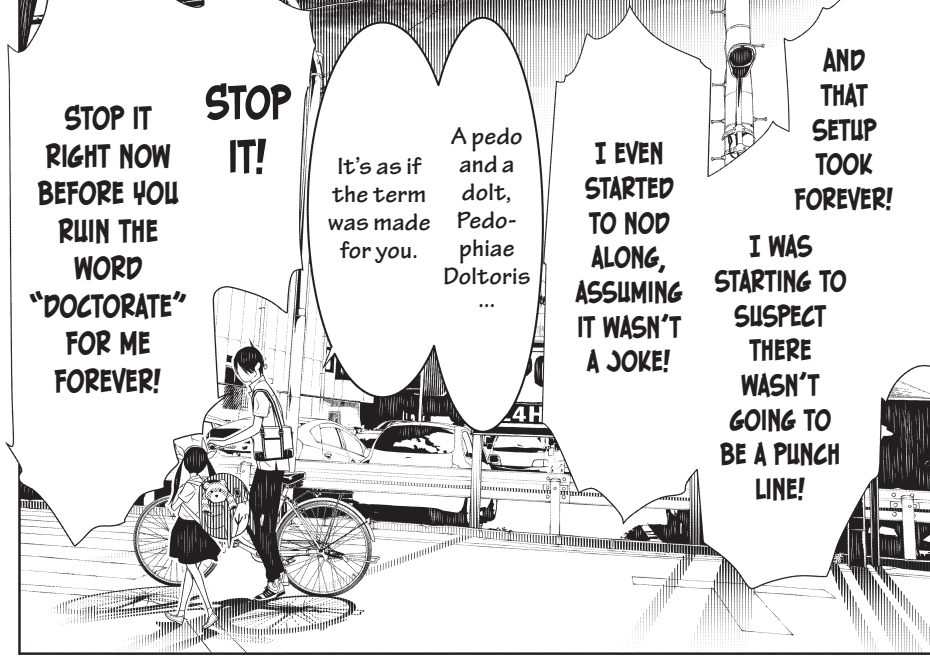
学士号
Congratulations! Degree
No, I can already see you with a doctorate in hand. That's right, from this day onward, I'll be calling you Doctor!
No, you aren't just as good as accepted, it may not be an exaggeration to say that you've graduated!
Of course. Now that you've decided to take those exams, you're as good as accepted.

What's a doctorate called in Latin?
Then allow me to call you by the Latin.


It's fine, call me whatever you want. Can't criticize you there.

Pedophiae
Doltoris.

SHUT
UP!!!


STOP IT!
STOP IT RIGHT NOW BEFORE YOU RUIN THE WORD "DOCTORATE" FOR ME FOREVER!
It's as if the term was made for you.
A pedo and a dolt, Pedophiae Doltoris ...
I EVEN STARTED TO NOD ALONG, ASSUMING IT WASN'T A JOKE!
I WAS STARTING TO SUSPECT THERE WASN'T GOING TO BE A PUNCH LINE!
AND THAT SETUP TOOK FOREVER!

The only people who say that are those who don't try.
Don't get carried away by sweet platitudes like "you can do it if you try."

You're making me want to punish you.
What a fresh brat.
You think you can get away with saying anything.
... God...

WHAT LINE WOULDN'T SOUND LEWD IF YOU REPLACED A KEY WORD WITH "BOOB"?!

Correctio

A rhetorical device used in order to emphasize the meaning of a sentence in which a previous statement is immediately modified and replaced with a more appropriate term.

Example: Brat -> Boob

Usage I can't stand little boobs, can you?

I'm shocked you came up with a line that sounds so lewd by just replacing "brat" with "boob."

I was starting to get the hang of this routine.

TOO PIOUS!

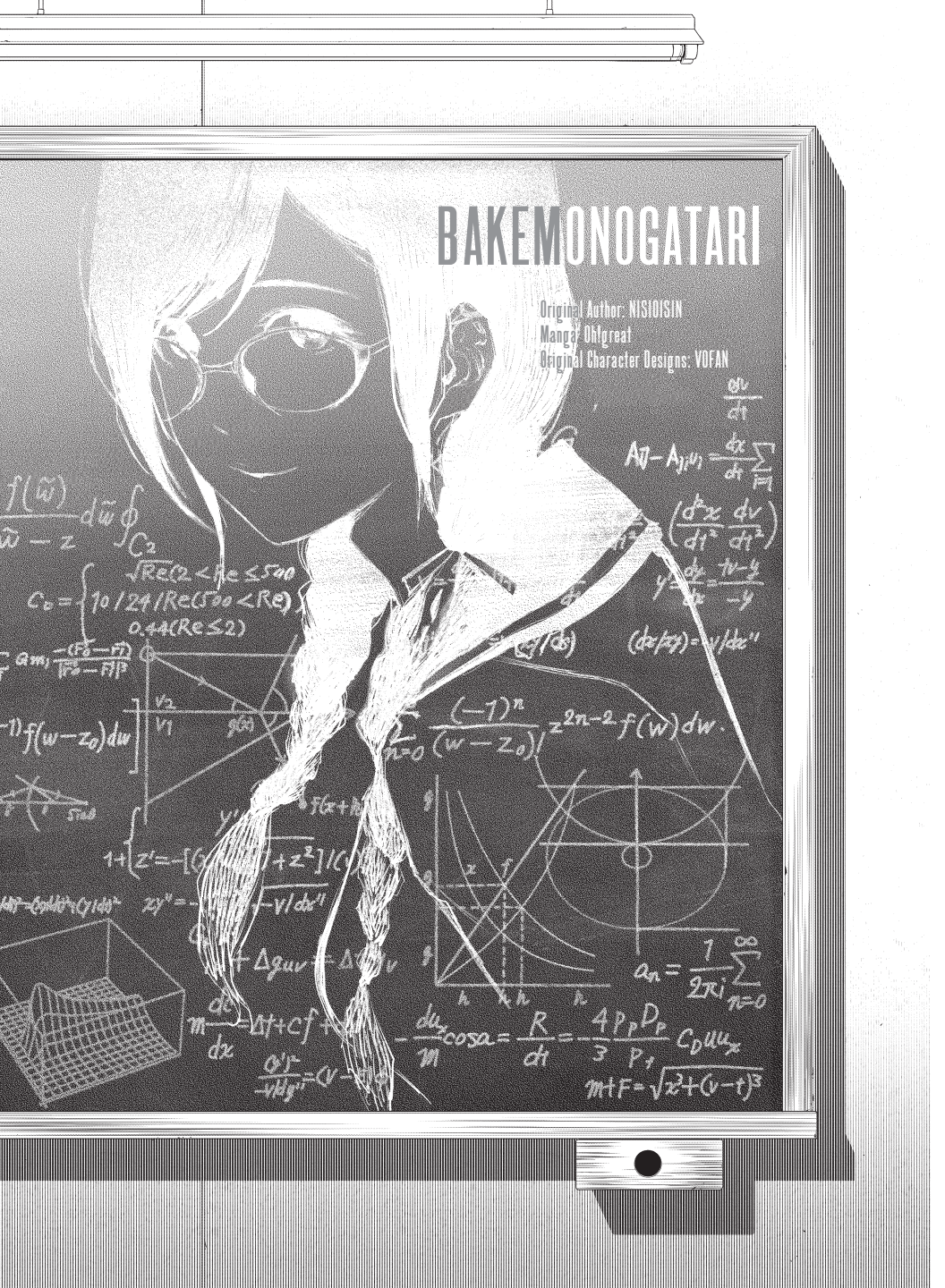
Snip off the tongue.

OR MAYBE NOT?!

Shlip of the tongue.

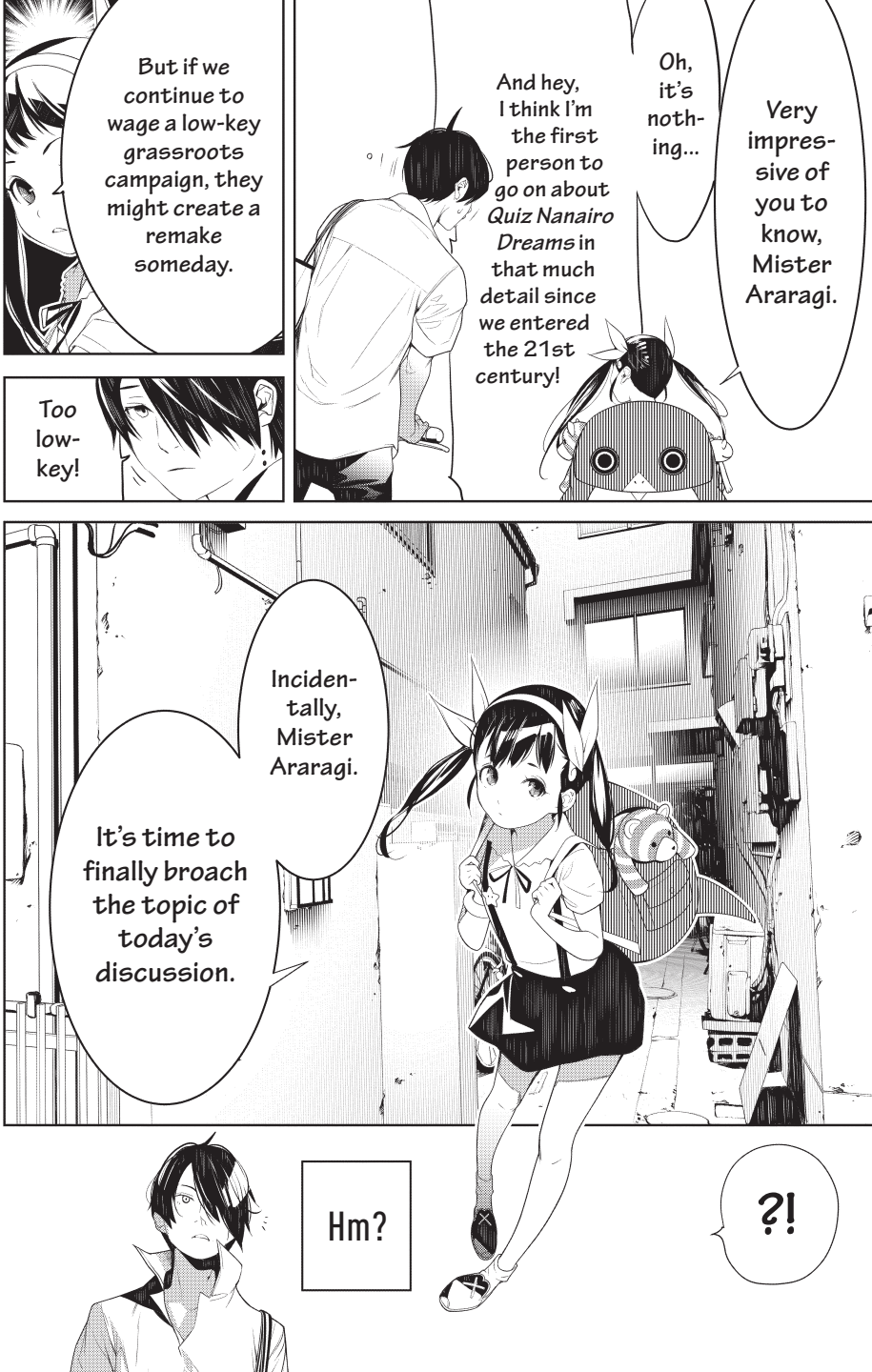
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
VRRM
KRAK
Truth
BAKEMONOGATARI
TH-THD
Riders
Killers
Lucifer
THD
THD
THD
THD

VRRM
Whyn'cha go out with Hane-kawa?!
Ara-ran-dyyy!
C'mon, answer me!
You'd better know that
Delinquent's Pride
A rider leaves behind no regrets
THD
THD
THD
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
That's right! What's the matter with Hanekawa, Ara-dummy?!
咲いて散るのが
我が人生
I blossom and scatter / Savages
Toughest in the universe / Lucifer / Bring it
Nice to beat ya
She's being savage today ...


BAKEMONOGATARI
Original Author: NISIOISIN
Manga: Oh!great
Original Character Designs: VOFAN

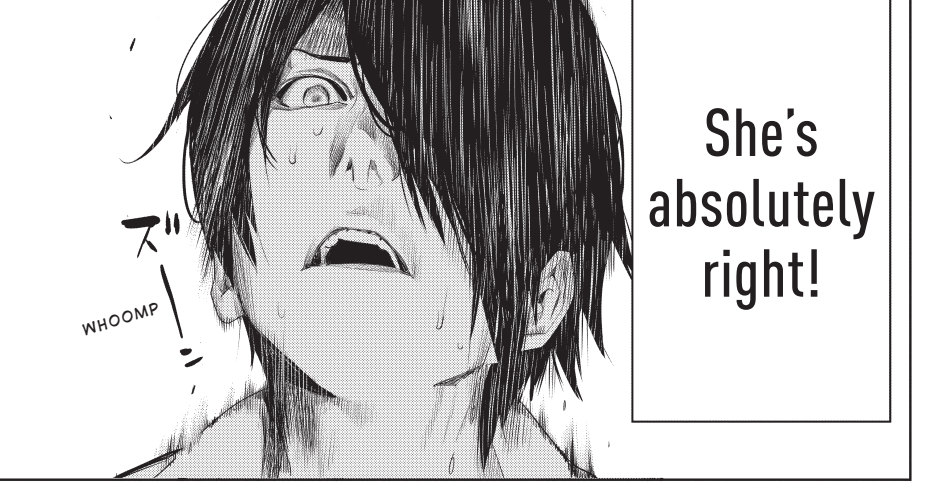
But their personalities are like night and day.
I think both of them are pretty.
That's a hard one to answer ...
Er ... Well... I guess ...
I wouldn't be here talking to you right now if it wasn't for her.
She's someone I'm indebted to.
You see... I don't see Hanekawa in that way...
She's just on a different level from me, biologically speaking.
It's like if a minnow and a swan happened to come across each other in a lake, I suppose?
Hanekawa would probably turn me down anyway.
Well, hold on...
She doesn't hold back on anyone, does she?
Isn't Miss Senjogahara malice personified?
That's all the more reason ...

I see... How ironic.
Ironic ?
Well, you're the type to pursue Lindt in *Quiz Nanairo Dreams*.
DON'T YOU THINK THAT REFERENCE NEEDS TO BE EXPLAINED ?!
This one was really obscure. Okay, a while back, there was this dating-sim / quiz arcade game that CAPCOM developed called *Quiz Nanairo Dreams: The Miracle of Rainbow Village*, where you answered trivia questions and got to become friends with seven featured female characters. You raise their impression of you over half a year before finally defeating the resurrected Demon King at the end to live happily ever after with your favorite girl—only, along the way, there's this character named Lindt, one of the Demon King's flunkies who gets in your way...
...and though she happens to be a girl, you sadly can't end up with her no matter what tricks and techniques you may try. There's no telling how many hundred-yen coins disappeared into those machines in search of a happy end with her.
As a side note, there was a proper route for Lindt in the home release of the game, perhaps due to player demand. Okay, commentary over!


But if we continue to wage a low-key grassroots campaign, they might create a remake someday.
Too low-key!
Very impressive of you to know, Mister Araragi.
Oh, it's nothing...
And hey, I think I'm the first person to go on about *Quiz Nanairo Dreams* in that much detail since we entered the 21st century!
Incidentally, Mister Araragi.
It's time to finally broach the topic of today's discussion.
Hm?
?!

I spotted a vampire girl here yesterday.
What ?
What was she called now ...
Miss Shinobu Oshino?
She saw Shinobu ?!
I've never been introduced to her, so I have no way of saying for sure.
But I think it was her.

But I must have convinced myself that Shinobu couldn't leave that building.
—It wasn't for any real reason.
Wearing a tacky Hawaiian shirt that no self-respecting person would wear nowadays...?
Uhh... A guy kind of like this?
...Was there a shabby older dude near her?
NO!
DO YOU SEE ME AS A SHABBY OLDER DUDE WEARING A HAWAIIAN SHIRT?!
Are you trying to ask me— if you were by the girl's side?
You shouldn't say things about others that you wouldn't want said about yourself, Mister Araragi.



It always does.

The truth hurts.

I have to wonder...

...is it possible that staying out of love can take a conscious effort as well?

Medicinal Herbal Tea
Traditional Medicine
Prescriptions
ACUPUNCTU
My hell...
...was ending today.
That's right. It was going to.
...there's nothing more for me to do.
As Oshino might say,
People just go and get saved on their own—
That's all.

Hachikuji continued to be in a precarious situation as an aberration.
But...
And yet...
I know that's how it must be.
Whirling Dance of Windmills Farewell!
SPIN
SPIN
FWOOOSH
I'd gone through a lot of changes in that time.
But—I felt like I was living all on my own just three months ago.

Did I then ...
...just go and change —
on my own?
KO-YOMI!
WELCOME HOOOME!
Huh?
Wh-What's up...
...with you?

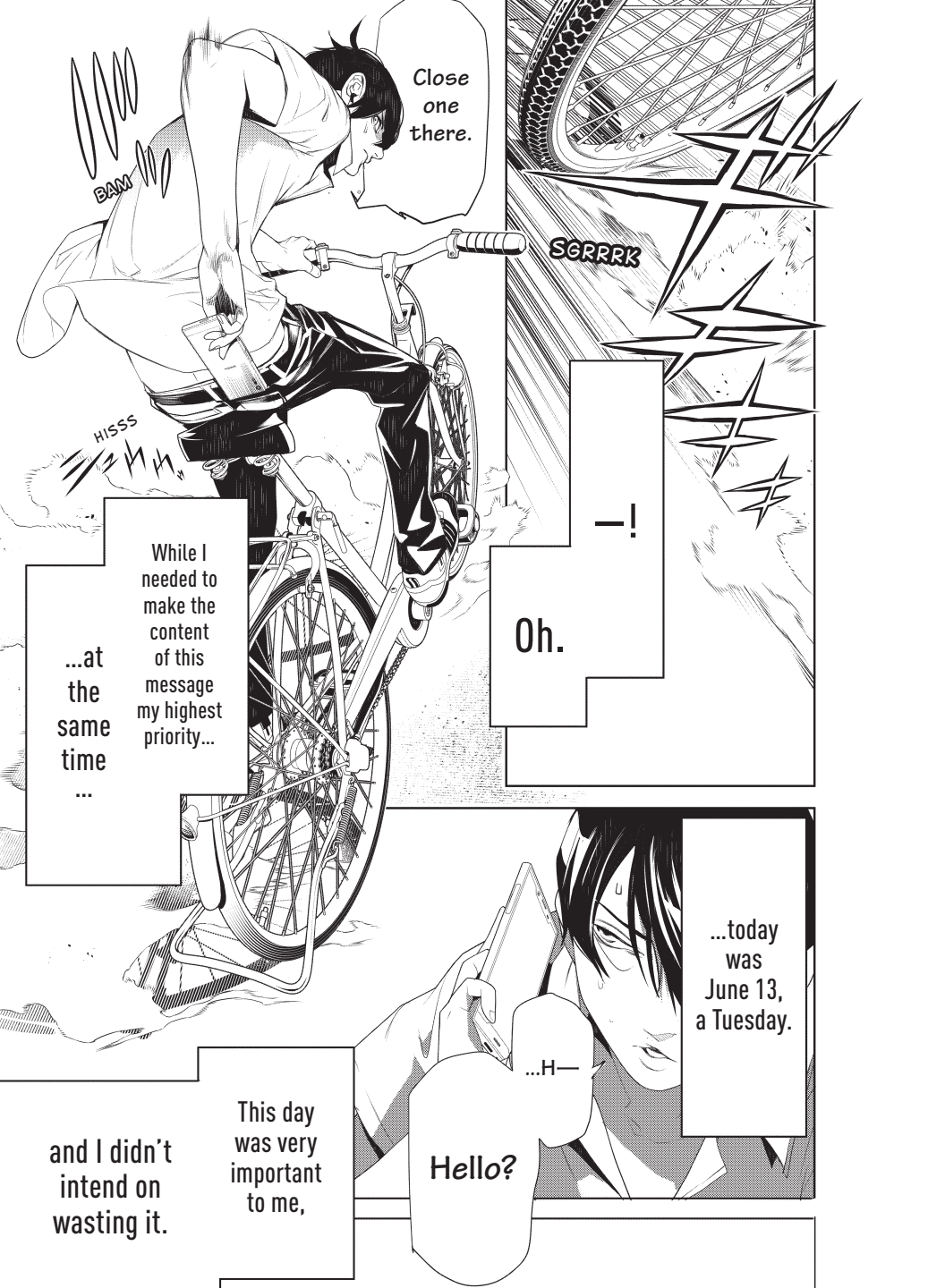
What's up with me? What's up with you?
You know we were at least a little worried about you, right?
Once again, you stayed out all night and came home looking like a mess yesterday!

An email ...?
...
Who from ...?

I know. I'll be sure to come back early today...
BRRT BRRT BRRT BRRT

BZZZ
BZZZ
You got mail

THWOOMP
Hanekawa <hanekawatsubasa@mail.com>
Greetings and salutations,
Mr. Araragi.
It is my sincere hope that
this message finds you
good health and fortune
always extr
your kind co
As for the
you
THWONK
KOYOMI ?!
HEY! THE HELL?!
SKREEE


Close one there.
BAM
SCRRRK
HISSS
—!
Oh.
While I needed to make the content of this message my highest priority...
...at the same time ...
...today was June 13, a Tuesday.
...H—
Hello?
This day was very important to me,
and I didn't intend on wasting it.

What is it?
Are you going somewhere, Araragi?
I should've expected as much.
Senjogahara really understands me.
I believe this goes without saying—but I'll go on a date.
I...I know, I know! I promise I won't be late.

What is it you'll be doing?
Humanitarian aid.
Is that so?
Fine. Then be on your way.
...
...I thought you'd be... angrier.
I actually have quite a bit on my own plate.
I'm still at school preparing for the culture festival.
Wait, really?
You're responsible for the boys acting as stagehands, so I'm sure you're unaware.
Ground Beetle Collector's Club
Gathers at Naoetsu East Park
She's gone home.
Miss Hanekawa, our supervising director, isn't feeling well.
But the girls are in a panic now.

HANE-KAWA !!
SORRY !
DID I KEEP YOU WAITING ?!
Meow.

Are you okay, Hane-kawa?!
Hane-kawa.
Oh!
The sender of this message ...
...was Tsubasa Hanekawa.
Subject: Sorry to trouble you
From : Hanekawa <hanekawatsubasa@mai
reetings and salutati
Araragi.
is my sincere hope tha
ssage finds you in goo
lth and fortune. I am al
mely grateful for your
deration.
he topic of my letter to
Araragi, I realize tha

Tut-tut, Araragi.
Riding your bicycle in this park is prohibited, isn't it?
They have bike parking. You need to use it.
...
Oh... Okay.
...
Was she not going to start with some words of gratitude for me? I had run over to her like a faithful little dog...
BIKE PARKING
Still...

Quite the makeover, to be frank.

...

This is... something.

...was born with her hair braided.

No. Not even a class president among class presidents...

Still ...

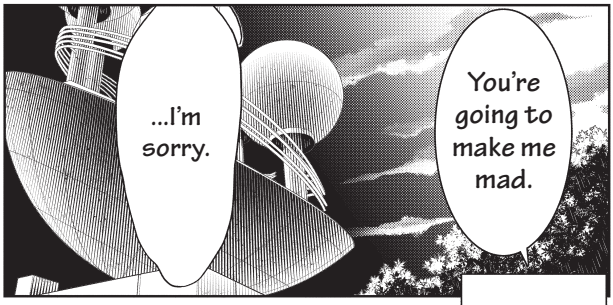
This was my first time seeing Hanekawa out of her school uniform, and it felt so unrefined, so oppressive.

Wasn't there at least an elegant way to get her out of that top...?

Hane-kawa— pardon... I mean, Miss Hanekawa.

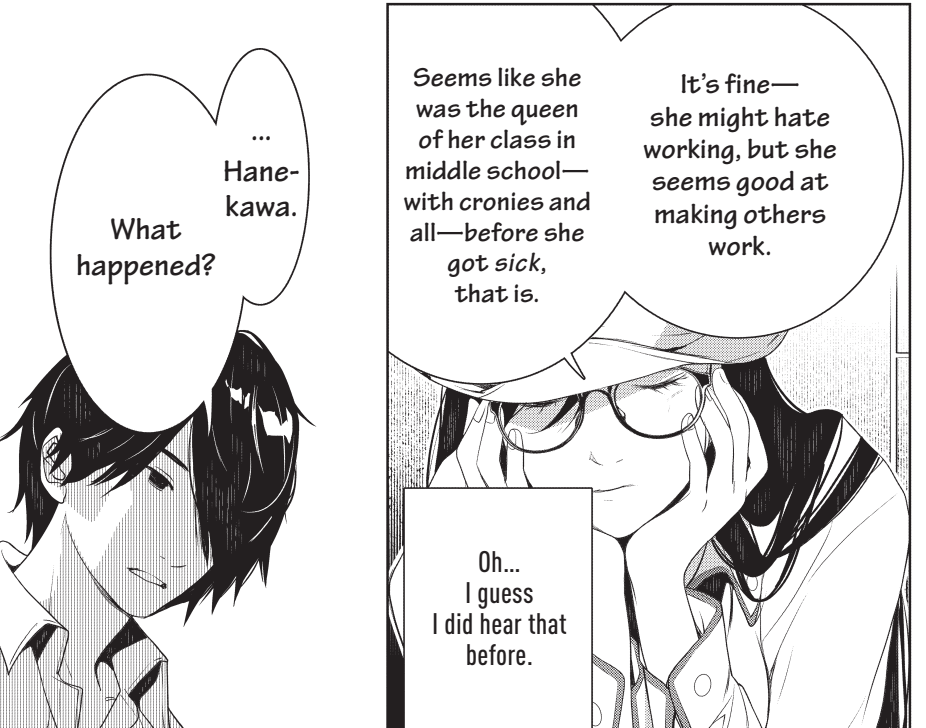
"Miss"?

I'd do this in a suave way, like in the fable of *The North Wind and the Sun*!
FWOOOOSH
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
KRAKL
Allow me to take your blouse for you.
AH... IT'S GETTING SO HOT...
STRIP
STRIP


You're going to make me mad.
...I'm sorry.

...I wanted to do something about this gloomy mood, but...
...I totally missed the mark...
I felt like getting on all fours and begging for forgiveness.
U-Um, Hanekawa?
I-I heard... you went home because you weren't feeling well...?
...
Araragi.

Yeah.
I put Senjogahara in charge of the culture festival preparations.
What.
Isn't that... quite the mismatch?
She hates nothing more than working with, and for, others.
That seems like a "Caution: Do not mix" kind of situation.

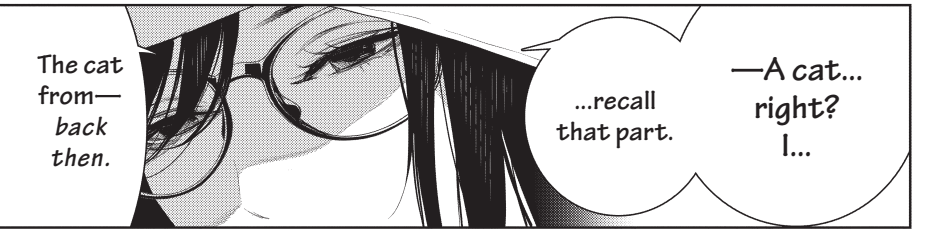

It's fine— she might hate working, but she seems good at making others work.
Seems like she was the queen of her class in middle school— with cronies and all—before she got sick, that is.
Oh... I guess I did hear that before.
... Hane-kawa.
What happened?

SQUEEZE
...head-aches?
Ah!
Ow ...!!
Is it... ... those...
It's this head-ache... It's a little... rough.
All right
I'm heading back home.
Huh?
A head-ache.
Huh...? Oh! Then let me walk you back home.

Sorry.
I didn't want to make you worry...
You should've told me then.
From the moment I got her message—
I had a pretty good guess about *what was going on.*

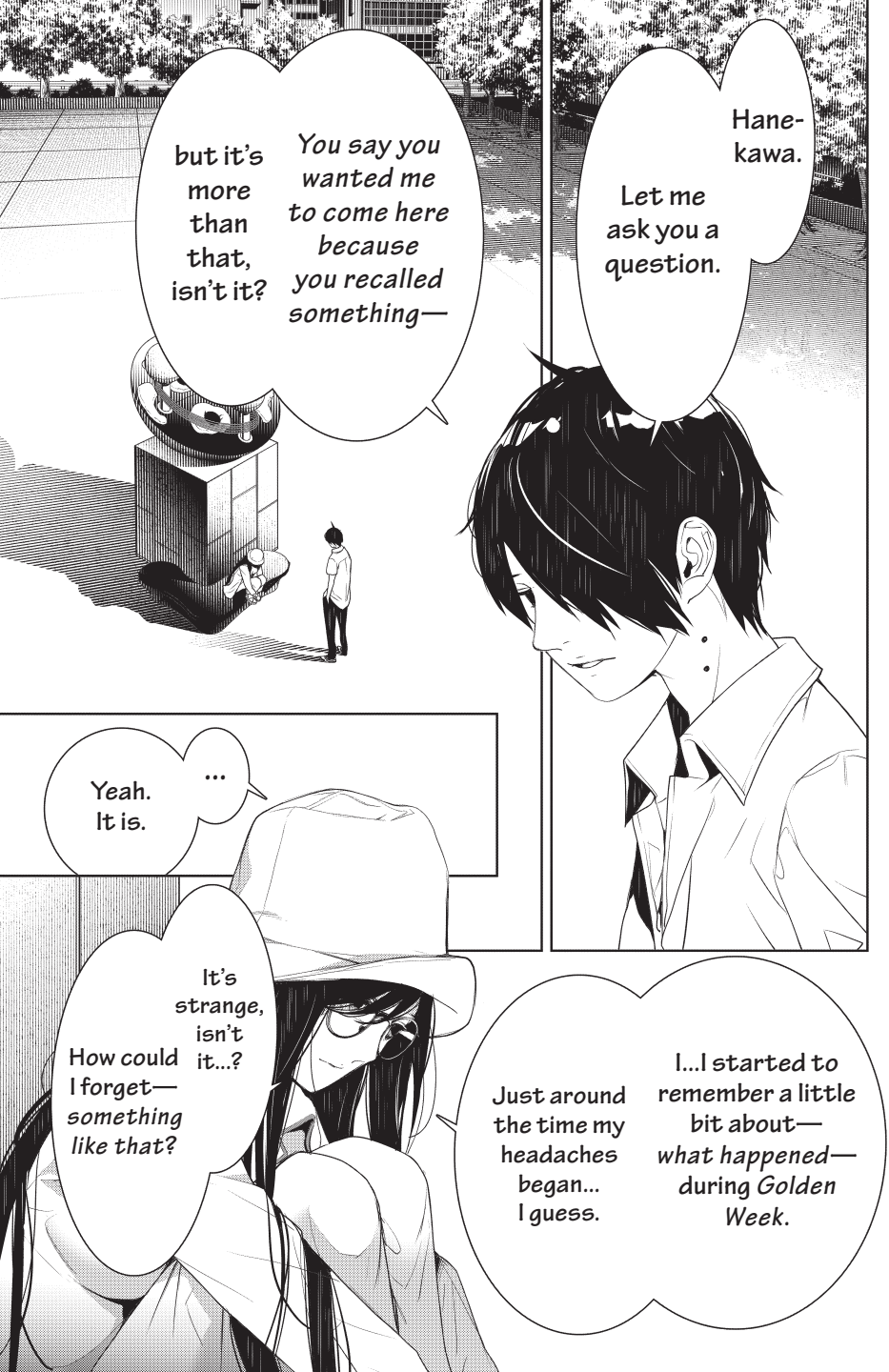
...So I thought about going home to get some sleep, but...
Yeah... The one yesterday at the bookstore and the one by the school gate earlier—they were actually pretty bad.

A cat.


—A cat... right? I...
...recall that part.
The cat from— back then.

The one you and I buried together.
That cat.

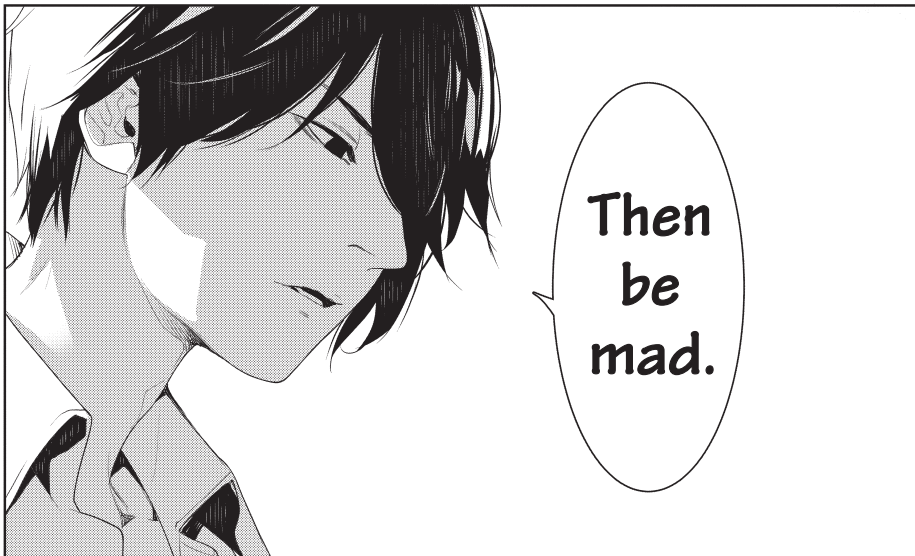
That's right. Last spring break.
Just as my personal hell started back then...
...so did...
...Hanekawa's.
Could it have been— a coincidence?
...No.
There's no way...
...it was.
The king of aberrations attracts other aberrations— you see.


Hane-kawa.
Let me ask you a question.
I...I started to remember a little bit about—what happened—during Golden Week.
Just around the time my headaches began... I guess.
It's strange, isn't it...?
How could I forget—something like that?
...
Yeah. It is.
You say you wanted me to come here because you recalled something—
but it's more than that, isn't it?

Hane-kawa's issue—was stress.
A reality that had built up to be too much to bear after ten-plus years.
And *that*—is what erupted during Golden Week.
THONK
KRAKK
KRAKK
KRAKK
So, Araragi.
Do you think...
...you could take me to Mister Oshino's place again?

That hat, could you take it off for me?
Sure.
But let me ask you another question.
Yeah, of course.
That's—not a question you should be asking me, Araragi.
I guess it isn't.
No, it's not.
...
That's ...
Miss Hanekawa.
Allow me...
...to take your hat for you.

You're going to make me mad.


Then be mad.

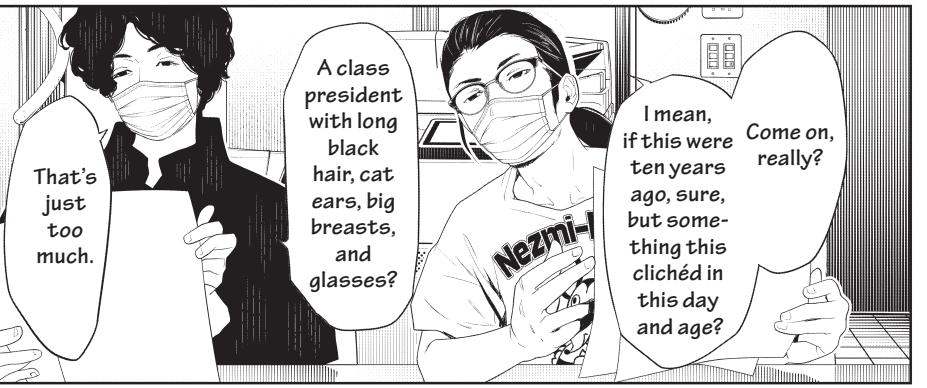
You can even hate me if you want—I don't care.
If you want to get mad, get mad.
Are you talking—about spring break?
That's...but that was just... That, if anything, was a case of just going and getting saved on your own...
Paying back what I owe you is a lot more important to me than our friendship.
You saved my life.
No!

I don't think I can ever pay you back in full.
But I want you to let me do something for you.
I'll do anything, everything for you.
I made up my mind about that a long time ago. And if you get mad or hate me in the process ...
...so be it.
It felt like...
...I was finally able to say it.
So be it, huh.
...

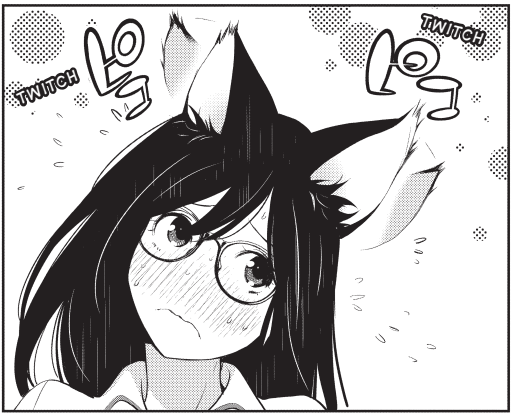
Just a little.

Hane-kawa laughed.

At last,


That's just too much.
A class president with long black hair, cat ears, big breasts, and glasses?
I mean, if this were ten years ago, sure, but something this clichéd in this day and age?
Come on, really?

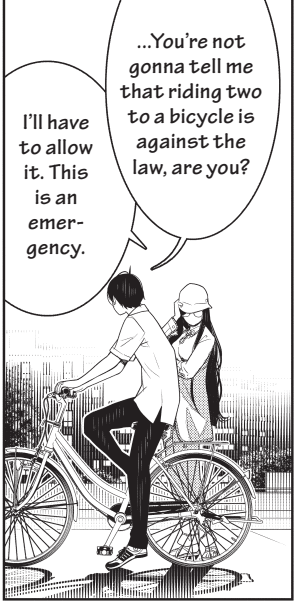
FWUMP
Ah...! M-My glasses are fogging up.


TWITCH
TWITCH

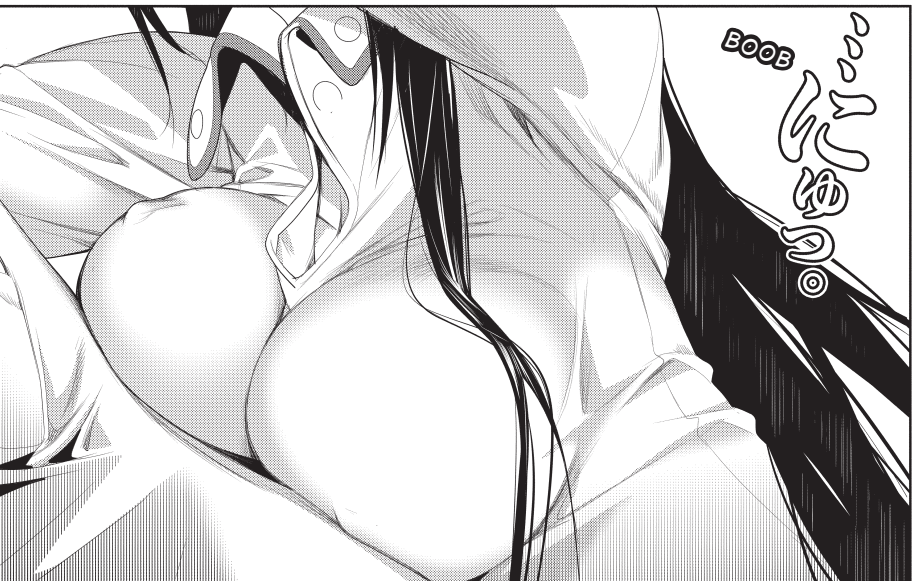
SO
CUUTE!
BA-BOOOM
BOOOM

Don't worry. That was only my soul speaking.
W-Well, wanna get going?!
Y…
YEAH…
To Oshino's place…?

FLOP


...You're not gonna tell me that riding two to a bicycle is against the law, are you?
I'll have to allow it. This is an emergency.

FLIP
?!

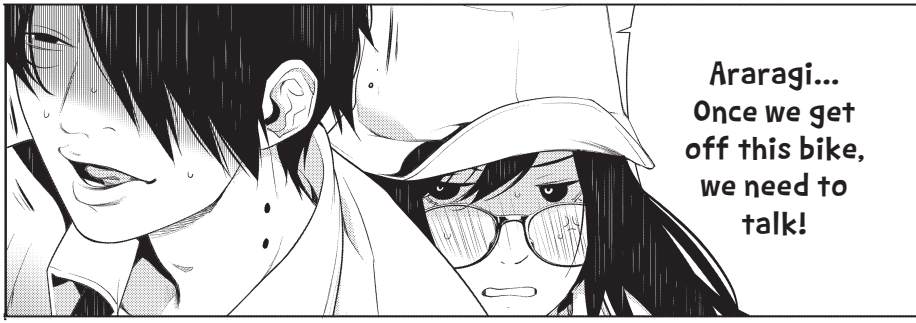

BOOB

FWA-
AAAH!
So I guess... these are her pajamas...
W-Well... she did just say she was trying to sleep.
Nuh... N-N-N- No bra?!
W-WELL... TIME TO GET GOI—
SQUEEEZE
AH... I CAN'T MOVE...
TREMBLE
TREMBLE

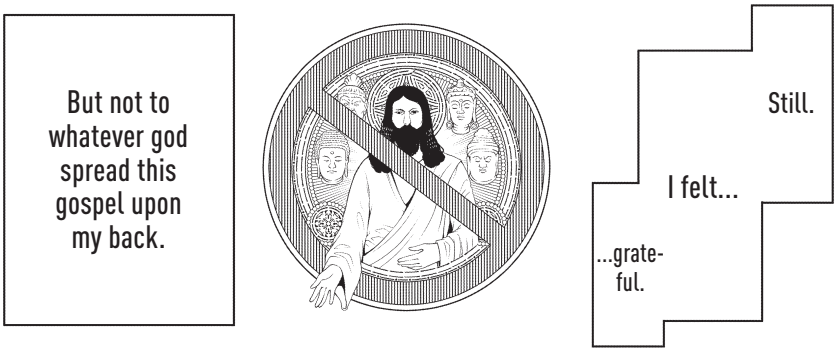
BAKEMONOGATARI

Oh, wow.
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
I did what I could...
...and looked into what the cause could be— I remembered a number of incidents in my life relating to cats, but...
So, these kinds of things really happen over the course of your life...
JIGGLE
ぽよん
JIGGLE
ぽよん
...during a radio program on May 27,
a message by one "Giant Panda Lover" was read on the air...could that have something to do with it?
JIGGLE
ぽよん
...No, I don't think so.
JIGGLE
ぽよん

...
I was a gentleman.
I wasn't going to intentionally steer us into the course of any bumps.
GRRK
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
THK
THK
THK
THK
THK
THK
That said...
...if some bumps *happened* to present themselves along my path,
perhaps I need not go out of my way to avoid them...
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE
JIGGLE


Araragi...
Once we get off this bike, we need to talk!

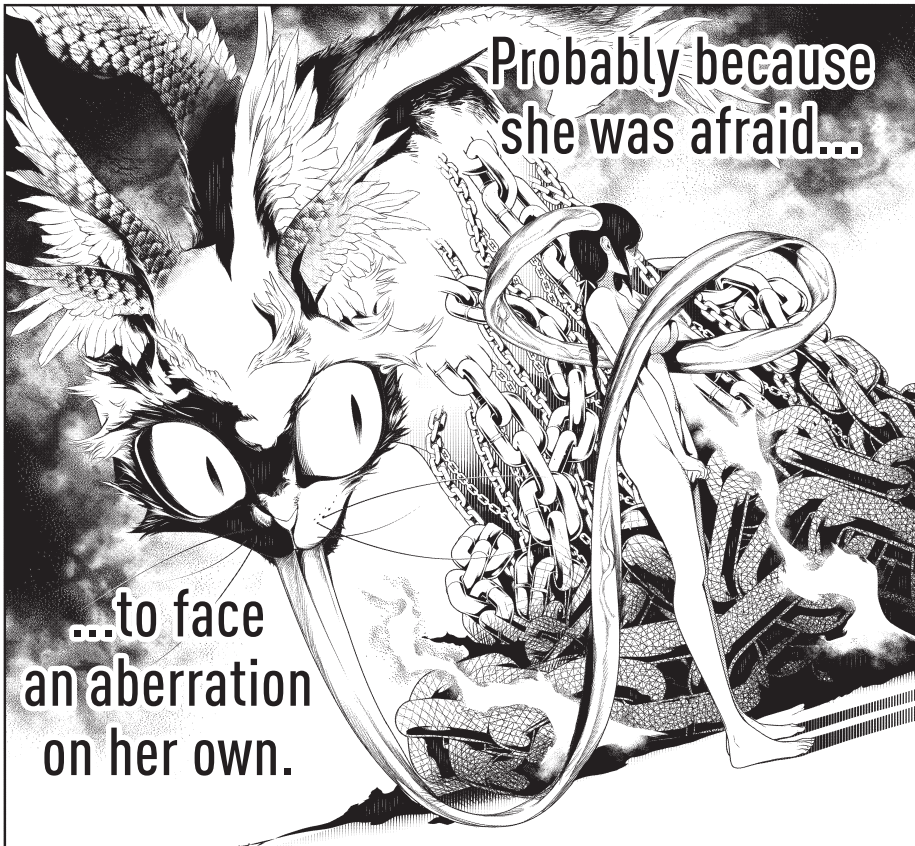
Why are you thanking me...?
...
Thanks.
Oh.
Uhh... Yeah.

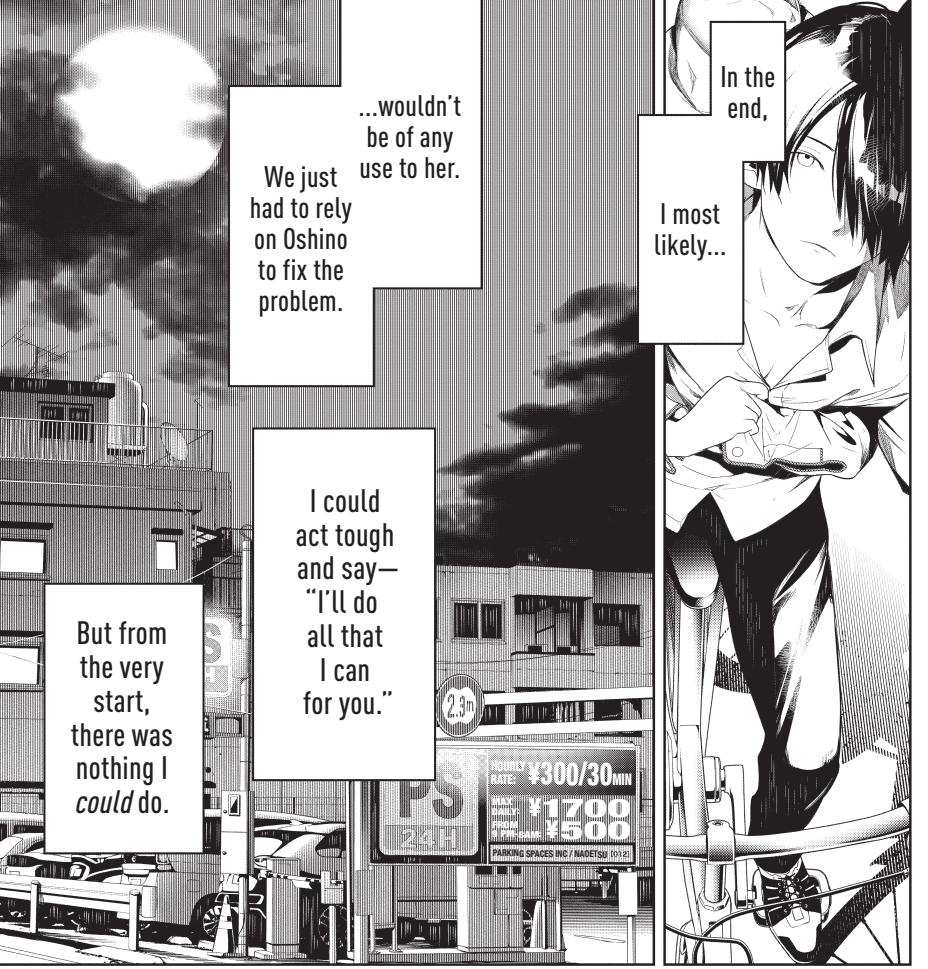

But not to whatever god spread this gospel upon my back.
Still.
I felt...
...grate-ful.

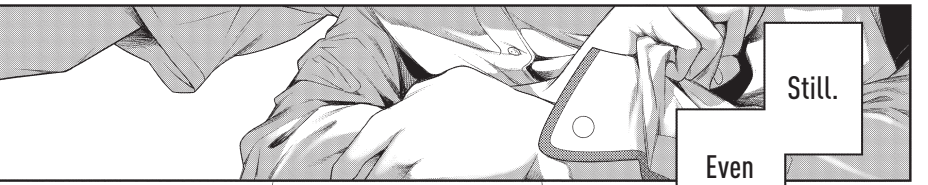
...there was no need for her to bother calling me out here.
When I thought about it... if she just wanted to go to Oshino's place...

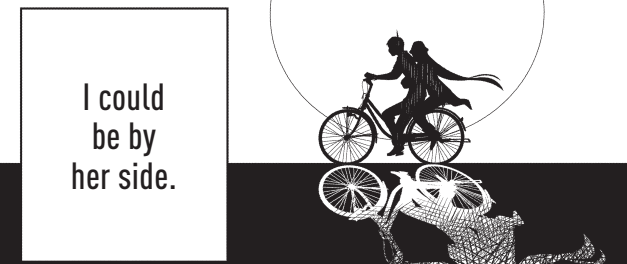
Oh...
Yeah, it was set up to be like that.
By Oshino.
Sorry about this... I know I was going there every day during spring break,
but I just couldn't remember where it is...
There's a barrier—or something like that.
Even if she didn't know the way there,
she only had to call me or send me a text message.
But—that isn't what she did.
Hanekawa—reached out to me before anything else.
t: Sorry to trouble you.
nekawa <hanekawatsubasa@mail.com>
ngs and salutations,
agi.
It is my sincere hope

She relied on me.



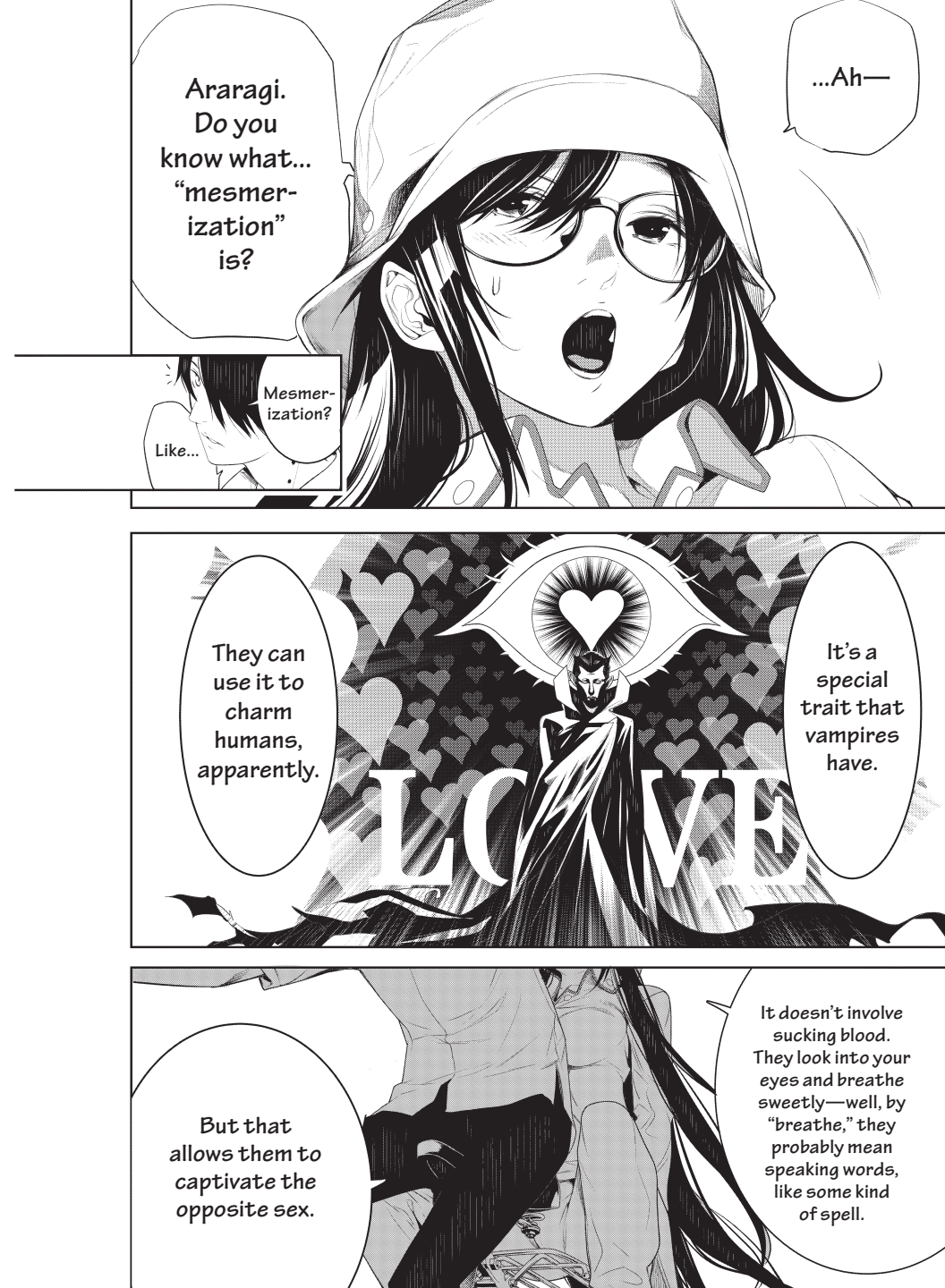

We just had to rely on Oshino to fix the problem.
...wouldn't be of any use to her.
I could act tough and say—"I'll do all that I can for you."
But from the very start, there was nothing I *could* do.
In the end,
I most likely...
HOURLY RATE: ¥300/30MIN
¥1700
¥500
PARKING SPACES INC / NADETSU
24H

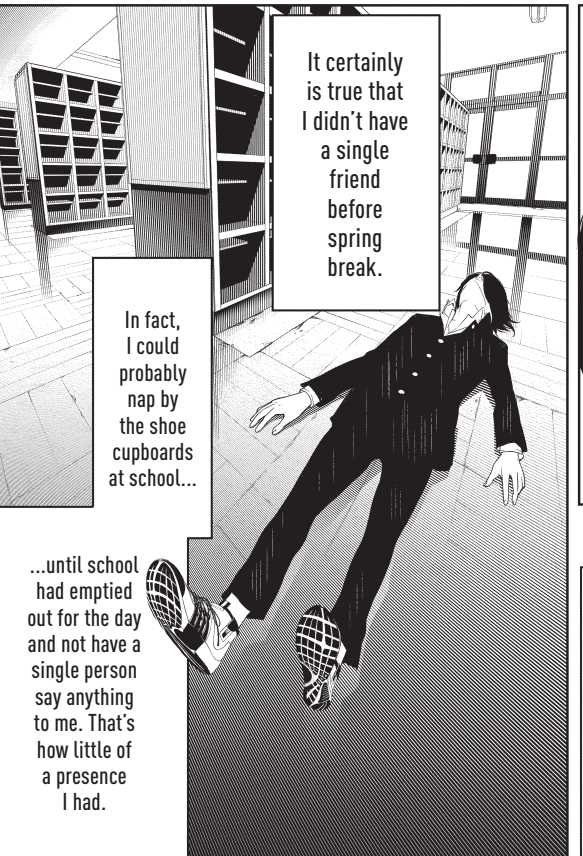

Still.
Even then.


I could be by her side.

It must be hard...
...for you...
...Ara-ragi.
Hm?
What must be?
Looking after so many people in so many different ways.
Like Senjo-gahara, or Mayoi, or Kanbaru... or Sengoku today.
HAHA! WOW!
THEY'RE ALL GIRLS!
Yeah, yeah ...
Oh, I see now...

They involved aberrations— all of them.
I see.
...I see.
I guess it started with spring, huh. It all... started from there.
According to Oshino, yeah...
He says aberrations are always around. They don't appear out of nowhere.
But in my case, I basically stuck my head straight into them ...
...
At school Once the new year starts
Wait for me there

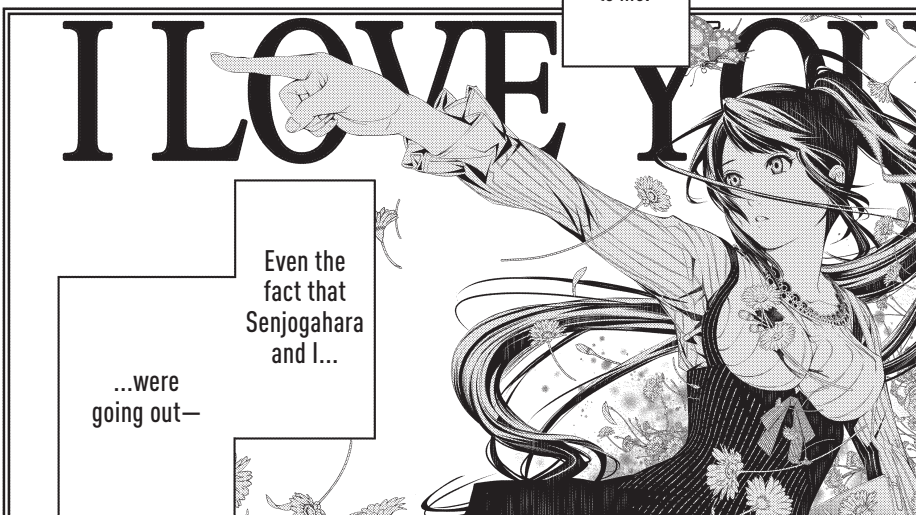

Araragi. Do you know what... "mesmer-ization" is?
...Ah—
Mesmer-ization?
Like...
They can use it to charm humans, apparently.
It's a special trait that vampires have.
LOVE
But that allows them to captivate the opposite sex.
It doesn't involve sucking blood. They look into your eyes and breathe sweetly—well, by "breathe," they probably mean speaking words, like some kind of spell.



Of course.

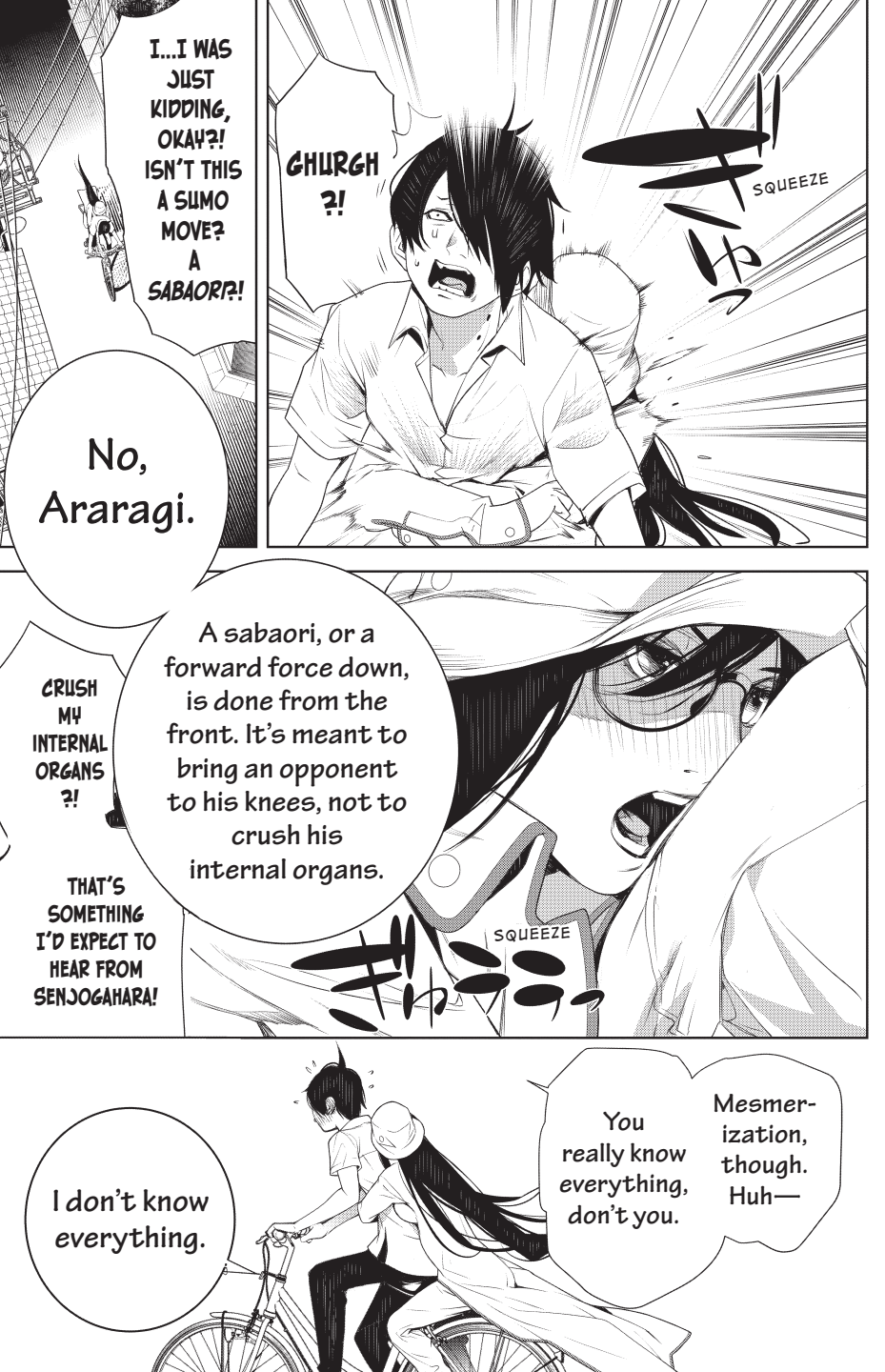
That was entirely possible.

That's Hanekawa for you.
It was pretty convincing as far as realistic explanations go...
But—
in that case...
...that would change things—wouldn't it?
It would change everything about my entire situation...
All the fun I had talking to Hachikuji.
How attached Kanbaru was to me.


I LOVE YOU
Even the fact that Senjogahara and I...
...were going out—

Sorry.
I have to let myself say this.
It's the least I could do.
I mean ...
That...
...was...
...mean of me, wasn't it.
...just how long...
...do I have to wait?
Not really.
I wouldn't say so. Actually, it all makes more sense to me now.
Heh, so I guess you might've also been...
...one of those girls that ended up getting mesmerized by me, after all.

...is because you've changed, Araragi— I want to tell him that, but...
The reason that so many people have gathered around you...
...
...
Ngh...!
No...
No!!
I know— better than anyone.


I...I WAS JUST KIDDING, OKAY?! ISN'T THIS A SUMO MOVE? A SABAORI?!
No, Araragi.
GHURGH ?!
SQUEEZE
CRUSH MY INTERNAL ORGANS ?!
A sabaori, or a forward force down, is done from the front. It's meant to bring an opponent to his knees, not to crush his internal organs.
THAT'S SOMETHING I'D EXPECT TO HEAR FROM SENJOGAHARA!
SQUEEZE
I don't know everything.
You really know everything, don't you.
Mesmerization, though. Huh—

I don't ...
...know anything.

...?
That doesn't sound...like her normal line?
Huh...?
Ara-ragi.

Once this ...
...is all over.

We need...
...to talk!

It was June 13. Tuesday.
Sorry about earlier! My bad!
Oh...
Yeah, I heard you earlier.
Okay, I'll just stick to him for now!
Create the right mood... Um, oh...
No, but it'd be too sudden. I need to work up to it...
I'm going to tell him. I'm going to tell him— today! Oh, but maybe I should've just let it slip out now.
Maybe that would make a bigger impact.

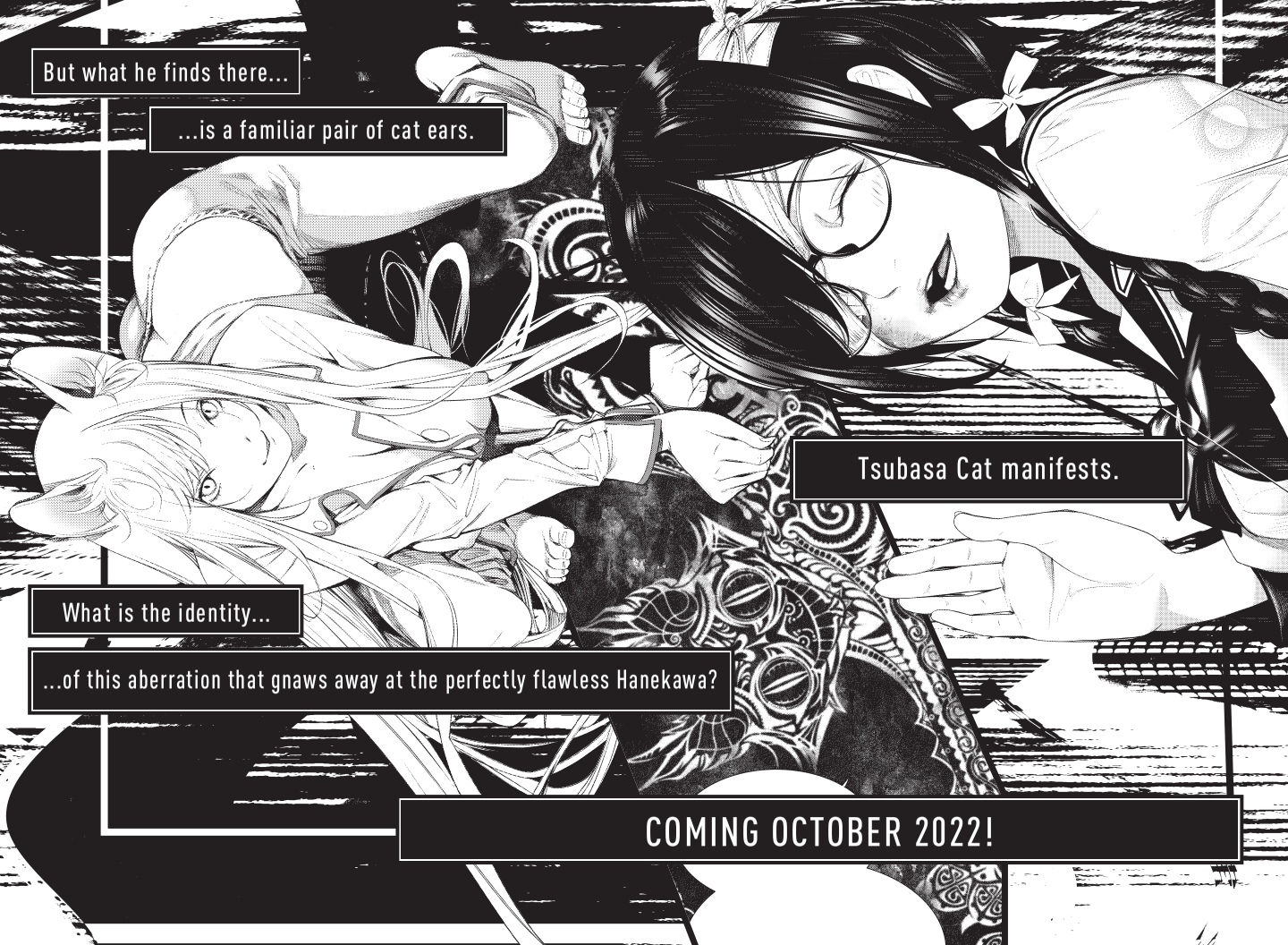
No marking
Humans included.
The distance between us
Traffic Safety Week
Zero Trash Movement
This clean town is my town.
It was going to be—
the day my personal hell came to an end.

Continued in Volume 16

Next Volume Preview

BAKEMONOGATARI 16

Koyomi comes running to answer Hanekawa's S.O.S.


But what he finds there...
...is a familiar pair of cat ears.
Tsubasa Cat manifests.
What is the identity...
...of this aberration that gnaws away at the perfectly flawless Hanekawa?
COMING OCTOBER 2022!

BAKEMONOGATARI (manga) 15

Kodansha Digital Edition

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First published in Japan in 2021 by Kodansha Ltd., Tokyo.
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English digital edition published by Kodansha USA Publishing, LLC, New York.

ISBN: 9781684913077

Digital Edition: 1.0.0

Editing: Ajani Oloye
Translation: Ko Ransom
Production: Grace Lu
Pei Ann Yeap
Hiroko Mizuno

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